

Y4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, I hope you have all enjoyed the festive break. It was lovely to welcome the children back to school last week and hear all about their Christmas. They certainly appear to have recharged their batteries and look to be ready for the term ahead.

Our topic this term is '**European Time Traveller**' and the children will be finding out the answers to some questions about **Ancient Greece**. These will include:

- Where was Ancient Greece?
- Who were the Ancient Greeks?
- When in history were they important and why?
- How did they influence the world today?
- Who were the major Greek gods?
- When were the Olympic games founded and how have they changed?

As always, the topic focus will provide varied writing opportunities, including: an instructional text about how to defeat a minotaur and a fictional myth using dialogue.

Reading in year 4: Children in year 4 will be listened to by an adult in school on a regular basis.

In addition to regular reading opportunities within the class, all children in year 4 will continue to visit the school library every Thursday to choose a library book to take home. Please ensure your child brings their library book back to school on that day if they wish to borrow a different book. Of course, if they are still reading it then they may keep it at home until finished.

English: Our initial focus is to familiarise ourselves with Greek myths and we will be using 'The Orchard Book of Greek Myths' by Geraldine Mc Caughrean to do so. As we immerse ourselves in the teachings of Greek myths we will learn that myths are fictional and usually about gods and goddesses, sometimes with fantasy creatures in them. The children will begin to understand that they often explain how the world, animals and people came to be. The children will then retell an exciting myth from a different perspective, thinking about dialogue, use of inference and show not tell to create suspense.

Our non-fiction focus will include instructional writing. The children will be looking at a wide variety of instructional texts to help them develop their understanding of what a good set of instructions looks like. They will be following verbal and written instructions to carry out tasks and will be evaluating the instructions provided based upon their outcome. The children will be learning about bossy verbs, adverbs for clarity and time adverbials for order so they can write a set of instructions to inform the reader on how to successfully defeat a minotaur, should they ever encounter one!

Spelling: The children will continue to have a weekly spelling test and they will be sent home with a spelling list to practise (every Monday) in preparation for a **spelling test which will take place on the Friday of the same week**. Please encourage your child to bring their spelling books to school on those days.

Maths: In Maths we will continue to work daily on our Maths Passport targets to secure basic facts and skills. To achieve each target, the children have to say or write their answers in 30 seconds so it's helpful to practise each target regularly at home. All Maths Passport target information can be found on the school website but please ask if your child needs reminding of where they are up to.

We will begin the term by continuing our work on multiplication and division. The children will practise recalling and using multiplication tables and related division facts to aid fluency, practise mental methods and develop their fluency in the formal written method of short multiplication and short division. We will then move on to look at measurement, focusing on length & perimeter. We will be thinking about equivalent lengths (m/cm & mm/cm) as well as adding & subtracting these, perimeter of 2D shapes and of rectilinear shapes (shapes where all sides meet at right. We will then

spend some time looking at fractions and decimals. The children will learn to count in fractions, add and subtract in fractions and recognise tenths and hundredths in various representations and be able to write these as a decimal.

Problem solving and reasoning will continue to be an important part of all our maths when the children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills independently and to persevere when they are stuck.

We need to be secure in all our times tables by the end of year 4. This term we will begin with revising our 6X tables before moving on to learn our 9X and 7X. We will continue to revisit those learnt in year 2 and 3 on a regular basis too. These will become part of our daily routine to practise so that the children are able to instantly recall facts. It would be helpful if you could remind your child to practise these at home too.

In **Geography/History** the children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of Ancient Greece with a focus on comparing aspects of life in Ancient Greece with that of the modern day. They will use maps to locate Ancient Greece and the countries that made up their empire and match ancient place names to modern ones. They will explore how we know so much about Ancient Greece and what the greatest achievements to come from the Ancient Greeks were. They will undertake research to discover facts about famous figures in Ancient Greek history.

In **Computing**, we will be using the chrome books to undertake research for our topic-based writing. They will also be using software to produce their own digital music and learning how to edit and write HTML.

In **R.E** we will be asking the question 'What faiths are shared in our country?'

In **ART** the children will be looking at Ancient Greek art and will try to replicate a masterpiece. They will also make and decorate a clay pot/plate.

In **DT** they will use their knowledge of area and perimeter to design and build a 3D temple. They will also have the opportunity to prepare a feast for a Greek God.

The focus for **P.E.** is gymnastics and dance. **P.E. will take place on Thursdays and Fridays.** Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school. PE kit consists of a plain or Shire Oak white or purple t-shirt and black shorts. We will aim to have PE outdoors as often as possible this term so joggers and a sweatshirt/hoodie would be useful. No football strips or similar please. As always, please make sure that everything is labelled and placed in a named bag. We prefer kit to stay at school for the full half term. It can be washed in the half term holiday!

Trips and visitors – Lineham Farm residential in February.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns then feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you,

Mrs Sharon Hall, Ms Sue Strange and Miss Abi Readman

(The Year 4 Team)