

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?

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 scene 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!

After our exciting residential trip to Lineham Farm, the children will be using their experiences from the trip to write an information leaflet for Lineham Farm. They will look at a variety of information leaflets and identify the key features of an information leaflet before planning and creating their own.

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 into school on Fridays so that they can complete their spelling test in their books.

Maths: We will begin the term working on multiplication and division work, the children will continue to practise recalling and using multiplication tables and related division facts to aid fluency, practise mental methods and continue to develop their fluency in the formal written method of short multiplication and short division. We will then move onto measurement, focusing on length & perimeter, 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 angles). We will end the term 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 learning our 7x tables. We will continue to revisit those learnt in year 2 and 3 on a regular basis too. This is 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 looking at how to make music using the Chromebooks.

In **R.E** we will be asking the question 'What faiths are shared in our country?'. There will be a strong theme of belonging in this topic and children will be encouraged to think about where they feel like they belong and why.

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** we will be focusing on a balanced and healthy diet. We will design, make, and evaluate a Greek dish.

The focus for **P.E.** is gymnastics and hockey. **P.E. will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** 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,

The Year 4 team.