

# Year 4 Newsletter

## Autumn 2

**Our topic/theme this half term is:**

# Who were the Ancient Greeks?

**In this topic, we will be discovering the world of the Ancient Greeks and linking this to our work across the curriculum.**

**Our Key Texts this half term are a range of Greek myths, including the Mark of the Cyclops.**

## Our English learning this half term:

### Reading:

**In Guided Reading this half term, we will be focusing on the following objectives:**

- Read a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retell some of these orally.
- Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these
- Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction over a wide range of subjects.
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied

### Writing:

**In Year 4, we will be developing the following writing skills:**

- Plan his/her writing by discussing writing similar to that which he/she is planning to write, in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.
- Draft and write in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot with consideration for the audience and purpose.
- Draft and write non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices.
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors, including the use of the apostrophe for possession, speech punctuation and the use of the comma for fronted adverbials.
- Evaluate and edit by proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences, expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials.

**We will be writing our own myths, based on the Ancient Greek tales of Perseus and Medusa.**

**We will focus on the following:**

- Describe a character using well-chosen vocabulary
- Select powerful, precise and well-chosen nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs.
- Use personification, alliteration, metaphor and simile.

**We will be writing explanation texts:**

- Use topic sentences to introduce paragraphs.
- Vary sentence openers and sentence structure.
- Use technical language and an appropriate formal tone.

**In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas:** use fronted adverbials; use commas after fronted adverbials; use paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme; make the appropriate choice of pronoun or noun, within and across sentences, to aid cohesion and avoid repetition.

## Our Maths learning this half term:

### **Addition and Subtraction** (continued from Autumn 1)

- Add numbers with up to four digits using the formal column method.
- Subtract numbers with up to four digits using the formal column method.
- Use estimating and inverse operations to check my answers.
- Solve two-step addition and subtraction problems, using different methods and explain why I used them.

### **Measure: Area and Perimeter**

- What is area?
- Measure and calculate the perimeter of a rectilinear figure (including squares) in centimetres and metres.
- Find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares.
- Compare areas of shapes.

### **Multiplication and Division**

- Recall times tables facts: x0, x1, x3, x6, x7 and x9.
- Use place value and number facts to multiply and divide mentally, including multiplying by 1 and 0; dividing by 1; and multiplying together 3 numbers.

**We will continue to develop our counting and times tables skills throughout our lessons**

## Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

### **Science**

**Our unit of science this half term is focused on habitats, adaptations to habitats, food chains and classification. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:**

- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

**We will be developing the following enquiry skills:**

- Group, sort and classify using criteria and simple keys.
- Raise relevant questions and use different forms of enquiry to answer them.
- Collect and record data in a variety of ways.

### **Computing**

**Our unit of computing this half term is focused on creating audio media. We will create and record digital sounds, using these skills to produce an audio project. We will cover the following objectives:**

- I can import my recorded audio onto the computer.
- I can edit my audio by trimming the start and end.
- I can apply effects to alter the sound of the audio.
- I can include multiple tracks to enhance the audio.
- I can upload my audio online e.g. for a blog or website.

**Our digital literacy focus this half term will be recapping 'protecting our personal and private information'.**

## Our Humanities learning this half term:

### History:

**Our history focus this half term will be on Ancient Greece: A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world. We will explore the following areas:**

- What was everyday life like in Ancient Greece?
- What differences were there between the ancient and modern Olympics?
- Was school different in Ancient Greece?
- Can you explain the rise of democracy and how the city states were ruled?
- What can we learn about the Ancient Greeks from their artefacts?

**We will be developing the following historical skills:**

- Develop chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about change, similarity and difference.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about significance.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

### RE:

In RE, we will be understanding the diversity of belief in religions, both nationally and globally. We will look at different creation stories and compare them. The Christian creation story will be compared with other faiths and belief systems including Islam, Hindu, Aboriginal and Chinese faiths. We will also look at current scientific theories regarding the origins of the universe.

### Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be revising some of our previous learning. We will then focus on learning Spanish terminology for the family, before exploring cultural differences with Spanish Christmas.

## Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

### Art:

- Children will be developing their sketching and drawing skills, both in 2D and 3D.
- We will look at Ancient Greek pottery and design our own pots.
- We will work with clay to make figurines based on artefacts in the Fitzwilliam Museum.

**We will develop the following skills:**

- Produce creative work, by exploring our ideas and recording our experiences.
- Developing creating a variety of marks with a variety of medium and a wide range of drawing implements.
- Develop sculpture skills, focusing specifically on repeating patterns.
- Begin to show an awareness of objects having a third dimension and perspective.
- Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.
- Know about craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their artforms.

### Music:

#### Singing

- Singing seasonal songs whilst practising vocal and conductor techniques.
- Introduce harmony and choral sections.
- Practice conducting to peers.
- Develop a seasonal concert.
- Improvise using simple call and response phrases and apply structure.

## Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

### PE:

**Our PE units this half term are Dance and Ball Handling.**

#### **Dance**

Improve skills of travelling, jumping, turning, stillness, gesturing; changing shape/size/level/ direction. Increase the range of body actions; compose, practise and perform actions with control and fluency and understand and use cannon and unison.

#### **Ball Handling**

Playing Endline Game/Mat Ball. Use principles of attack and defence during the game. Develop special awareness through the game by passing and moving and understand the importance of when to use certain passes.

### PSHE:

**Our unit this half term is 'My Emotions':**

- Give an example of a physical, a social and an emotional risk.
- Give an example of how their friends might affect their decisions about risky situations.
- Name some emotions they might feel in a risky situation and how these might affect their body.
- Explain a strategy they could use for decision making in risky situations.
- Suggest ways of reducing risk in everyday situations and recognise ways of preventing accidents.
- Name some people they could ask for help in a risky situation.
- Recognise an emergency and suggest suitable action.

**We will also revisit our anti-bullying learning and discuss strategies to stop bullying. Link to Zones of Regulation.**

## Key Vocabulary

### Key Vocabulary for this half term:

#### Maths

Multiply, multiplied by, multiple, factor, factor pairs, times, product, repeated addition, division, dividing, remainder, grouping, sharing, doubling, halving, multiplication fact, division fact, inverse, side, edge, perimeter, area, square centimetre, cm<sup>2</sup>, unit, standard unit, metric unit, rectilinear.

#### English

Adverbial, fronted adverbial, commas, cohesion, pronoun, possessive pronoun, repetition, sentences, paragraphs, expanded noun phrase, simile, metaphor, preposition

#### Science

Predators, producers, prey, consumer, food chain, key, apex, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, food groups, classification, vertebrate, invertebrate, mammal, amphibian, fish, bird, reptile, insect, plant

#### History

Acropolis, agora, amphora, city-state, column, democracy, mythology, Olympics, Parthenon, phalanx, philosophy, tragedy, trireme, chronology, debate, democracy, armour, weaponry, gods and goddesses, similarity, difference, continuity, change