

Year 4 Newsletter

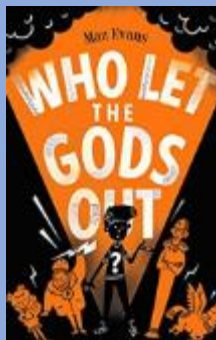
Autumn 2

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 Book for this half term is: **Who Let the Gods Out!**



Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Reading this half term, we will be reading a range of non-fiction, fiction and poetry texts. We will be reading *Firework Night* by Enid Blyton, a range of Myths and Legends, *Life Doesn't Frighten Me At All* and *Sulwe*, as well as news reports and information texts on famous scientists.

- 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.
- 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 electricity. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- I can identify common appliances that run on electricity
- I can construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- I can identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery
- I can recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
- I can recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up
- Take accurate measurements and use a range of new equipment
- Draw simple conclusions (to identify differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language

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 chronological knowledge of British, local and world history.
- 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 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 learning to discuss pets using Spanish vocabulary. We will learn the names for different animals and develop our knowledge of adjectives to describe the characteristics of different animals. We will then write a fun story about a visit to a pet shop! Finally, we will round off our unit by performing our Spanish stories to small audiences.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art:

This term children will be Exploring patterns. Children have the opportunity to explore pattern and develop a range of technical skills and knowledge through drawing and collage.

Children will learn:

- That the act of making drawings can be mindful.
- That we can use line, shape and colour to create patterns.
- That we can use folding, cutting and collage to help us create pattern.
- That we can create repeated patterns to apply to a range of products or outcomes.

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' and 'Anti-Bullying'. In these units we will:

- Recognise and communicate a range of emotions.
- Understand what is meant by mental health or mental wellbeing.
- Identify different emotions and how our emotions may impact on others.
- Identify when and how to get support with our emotions when needed.
- Understand the characteristics of different types of bullying.
- Understand how bullying affects us, including as bystanders and followers.
- Develop strategies to prevent and respond to bullying situations.
- Understand the procedures in school that are there to prevent bullying and support those involved.

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, cm², 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

electricity, cell, battery, bulb, buzzer, wire, circuit, component, positive, negative, appliance, conductor, insulator, appliance, power, series, parallel, switch

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