

Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Who were the Ancient Greeks?

In this topic, we will be exploring the history and significance of the Ancient Greeks!

**Our Key Text this half term is
'Who Let the Gods Out', by Maz Evans**

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.
- Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.
- Ask questions to improve our understanding of texts with increasing complexity.
- Participate in clear reasoned discussion about books, poems and other materials that are read to him/her and those he/she can read for himself/herself, taking turns and listening to what others say.
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction over a wide range of subjects

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 by organising paragraphs around a theme.
- 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.

We will be writing our own Greek myths, based on examples from Greece, such as Perseus and Medusa. We will focus on developing the following specific skills:

- Describing a character's emotions through senses or setting to create atmosphere.
- Select powerful, precise and well-chosen nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs.
- Use personification, alliteration metaphor and simile.

We will be writing instruction texts on Ancient Greece:

- Using paragraphs and other structural features.
- Use ambitious, subject-specific vocabulary.
- Engage the reader in an opening paragraph.
- Use generalisers and conjunctions.

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas: Use paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme; Use noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases; use fronted adverbials. We will also revise previous content such as third person and proper nouns.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Place Value

- Count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000.
- Find 1000 more or less than a given number.
- Count backwards through 0 to include negative numbers.
- Recognise the place value of each digit of a 4-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens and units).
- Order and compare numbers beyond 1000.
- Identify, represent and estimate numbers, using different representations.
- Round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000.
- Solve number and practical problems that involve large positive numbers.
- Read Roman numerals up to 100 and know that the number system has changed to include 0 and place value.

Addition and Subtraction

- 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.

We will continue to develop our counting skills as part of our mental starters (for example, counting in 25s and 1000s, counting forwards and backwards) throughout our maths lessons, whilst also making links to our times tables.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

Our unit of science this half term is focused on the digestive system and teeth. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- I can describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- I can identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Make systematic observations. Make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of equipment needed.
- Collect and record data in a variety of ways.
- Draw simple conclusions and use simple scientific language

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on systems, networks and communication. We will cover the following objectives:

- I know what collaboration and communication are.
- I can explain how the Internet lets people communicate and collaborate.
- I know what the Internet is and what it can be used for.
- I can use the Internet to communicate and collaborate.
- I can describe what can go wrong when using the Internet.
- I can explain the advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet to communicate.
- I can analyse which method of communication is best to use and why.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on showing responsibility in online and offline communications.

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:

- How did Ancient Greek democracy work and how does it compare to today?
- How do we know about Ancient Greece (Greek artefacts)
- How important were temples and religion to Ancient Greece?
- What was the Greek empire and how did it develop?

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.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be revising some of our previous learning on greetings, expressing how we are feeling and expressing dates in Spanish.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art:

- Children will explore and identify patterns in Greek vases before designing and creating patterns for their own.
- They will then explore paint, colour mixing and shade through Greek 'Evil Eyes'.

We will develop the following skills:

- Use light and dark within painting and begin to explore complimentary colours.
- Developing creating a variety of marks with a variety of medium and a wide range of drawing implements.
- Begin to show an awareness of objects having a third dimension and perspective.

DT:

Linked to Art, we will design and make clay evil eye necklaces, and add extra details using paint.

We will develop the following skills:

- Use research and design criteria to inform design of evil eye necklaces.
- Develop ideas to inform the design of innovative, functional and appealing products by looking at, exploring and analysing examples of real-life evil eye designs and jewellery.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion and annotated sketches.
- Select from a range of tools and equipment to perform their practical task of creating beads and necklace (e.g. shaping, moulding, finishing).
- Investigate and analyse a range of existing evil eye jewellery.
- Evaluate their final design against their own, original design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.

Music:

- Kodaly method with singing.
- Enjoy making, playing, changing and combining sounds.
- Experiment with different ways of producing sounds with voice, musical instruments, simple music technology, 'body sounds' (tapping, clicking, marching, stamping etc.).

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Health Related Fitness and Football.

Health Related Fitness

Develop the understanding of health and exercise, understand effects of exercise, heart rate and take part in partner circuits of choice.

Football

Improve skills of moving with the ball, with control, passing and shooting with accuracy. Introduce and develop game play skills of attacking and defending, moving in and out of space.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Rights, Rules and Responsibilities'

- Explain the difference between wants and needs.
- Explain why rights are important.
- Explain that rights come with responsibilities and explain how these responsibilities affect their actions.
- Explain why rules are needed and be able to identify those which are necessary and useful.
- Participate in making class ground rules and show or explain what following the rules looks like.
- Suggest different ways of making a decision and ways they can influence decision making in school.
- Describe what a representative does.
- Take part in simple debating and voting.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths

Place value:

Million, hundred thousands, ten thousands, thousands, hundreds, tens, ones, tenths, hundredths, greater than, less than, equal to, partition, four-digit number, expanded form, written form, numerals, multiple, compare, order, represent, estimate, solve, negative numbers, round, nearest, Roman numerals, integer, positive, negative

Addition and Subtraction:

Add, plus, sum, increase, total, more

Subtract, minus, take away, less, decrease, difference

Column, place value, calculation, calculate, exchange, operation, inverse, estimate

English

Myths:

Myths, story, story-telling, summarise, characters, hero, heroine, mythical, punctuation, full stop, capital letter, proper noun, tense, past tense, description, adjective, adverb, preposition

Information texts:

Information, non-fiction, Third person, Headings, Sub-headings, Adverbs, Paragraphs, Generalisers

Science

Digestion, teeth, canine, incisor, molar, pre-molar, enamel, dentine, plaque, cavity, dentist, oesophagus, stomach, intestine, liver, saliva.

History

Acropolis, agora, amphora, city-state, column, democracy, mythology, Olympics, Parthenon, phalanx, philosophy, tragedy, trireme, chronology.