

Dear Parents and carers,

This letter is to let you know your children's learning in the Autumn Term, and how you can help them embed their learning.

Our topic is the Ancient Greeks, and we will be studying both the geography of Greece and its historical legacy, including the many Gods and myths of this time. We will be looking at the heritage, everyday life, hierarchy and power, and invasion and settlement. We will be using artefacts to help immerse us into the Ancient Greek time. It would be great if you could talk to your children about the Greek Myths (some are not suitable so please be wary!)

In our science lessons the children will be learning about animals and their habitats. This includes the grouping of living things, the adaptations animals have made to live where they do, and the effect of the environment on those animals. There are some fabulous television shows about animals for children which will be good for adding to their knowledge.

In English we are basing our lessons around the book 'Varmints' by Helen Ward. It is a lovely book that does have a short film that has been made too! We are learning about instructions and so are concentrating on subordinating conjunctions, time conjunctions, adverbs, technical and formal vocabulary and imperative verbs. This will lead us onto explanation texts using the Mermaid of Zennor book. We will also be writing using The BFG and it would be lovely if you could read this book to your children. Running through the term will be reading activities. We will be reading the Greek Myths and the children will be looking at some comprehension activities.

In PE we will be looking at hockey and basketball. After half term we will be going swimming for the half day on Monday at the beautiful Quantock Lodge pool. In music this term's unit features an R'n'B-inspired arrangement of a traditional spiritual, sung in unison and three-part harmony. In Music will be on a Tuesday with Mrs Helen Berry. Year 3/4 will be learning to play the recorder. Their efforts will culminate in a performance at the Christmas Music Concert. This will be in addition to singing and learning about our musician of the month. Do ask your children who this is!

Our art, taught by Mrs Penny Phillips, is on a Tuesday and this term the class are doing a range of activities linked with Ancient Greeks: drawing of Greek gods using specific drawing techniques, fresco painting onto plaster of paris and mask making. In DT children will be making an alarm to protect their 'Greek Museum' using their skills learnt in science.

In French we will be looking at French phonic sounds. As with English they will learn the sounds ready for speech and reading.

Please make sure your children read at home at least four times per week for approximately twenty minutes or more. Please ensure you sign their reading records as there is a special treat awarded for those who have the four signatures! Remember to ask your children about events in the book, characters, settings and what they think might happen!

Please always feel free to stop me in the playground at drop off or pick up, and, if you would like to meet outside of these times do ring the office for an appointment.

I am very excited about teaching year 3 and 4 – our topics and books are fabulous!

Kind Regards

Joanna Jolliffe