

Happy New Year from the Year 6 Team!

Welcome to the spring term. We hope that you have had a great Christmas and a well-deserved break. We are incredibly excited for this term and hope that the children are ready to engage with a busy term full of fantastic learning. As well as introducing the children to the Ancient Greeks, the circulatory system and humanism, we will begin to prepare the children for the approaching SATs.

As always we will continue to support your child and are always available if you need us.

Miss Brewer & Mr Hunt

Miss Brewer: miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Mr Hunt: mr.hunt@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Groovy Greeks

To build excitement and interest at the end of the autumn term, we introduced the children to our spring term topic - the Ancient Greeks! As well as exploring some of Ancient Greece's best myths (Heracles, Theseus and the Minotaur, Perseus and Medusa), we will be looking at how the Greeks have influenced the Western world in particular with their creation of democracy. The children will also learn about some Ancient Greeks who continue to be important to us today. Towards the end of term we hope to host an Ancient Greek experience day (Covid restrictions dependent).

Homework

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their homework (usually set via Google Classrooms/My Maths) and to ensure it is handed in on time and have spent no longer than 40 minutes on each. In line with our updated homework policy, we will no longer be setting English spelling and grammar homework. We still encourage the children to be reading aloud to an adult at least 3 times a week to build fluency and comprehension or to be discussing their reading.

Guided Reading - Set: Monday Due: Thursday the same week

Maths - Set: Monday Due: Following Monday



Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 1st February - Weight and Height check
Parents' Evening (details to follow shortly)
Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd February - Inset days
Friday 1st April - Last day of the spring term

Guided Reading

We will continue Guided Reading sessions, working on the children's comprehension across various genres. They will also be able to read a range of different Ancient Greek myths. As always, any reading that the children can do at home will greatly improve their fluency and understanding. As well as promoting a love of reading.

Computing

The children's access to the 'online' world increases as they advance through Year 6 therefore it is important that they know how to navigate the internet safely and in an effective way. Because of this, we will refresh their e-safety knowledge throughout this term. Whilst looking at the internet, the children will be introduced to networks and will learn what LAN and WAN means and how they are useful in the real world. They will then build their own simulated webpage by learning how to hyperlink.

Life Skills

We will be discussing how the media has an impact on body image and well-being in this day and age as well as how advertising is used to promote products. We will continue to talk about relationships with others focusing on how they value each other and give constructive feedback.

P.E.

In dance, we will be using the Haka as inspiration for the children to produce their own 'war' dance. In games, the children will play hockey and develop their team skills. Later this term, the children will take part in circuit training and learn how to measure heart rate. In Gymnastics, we will take some of the floor skills we taught last term and use them on the large hall apparatus.

DT

As part of our topic, the children will investigate different breads and dips from around the world and they will use this to make their own bread and dip.

English

Our topic is full of fascinating myths and legends and we will be basing our English around it this term. The children will have a chance to write their own Greek myth and to create their own mythical beast! As well as this, we will write a diary entry about Battle of Marathon and write a persuasive letter from an Athenian to a Spartan warrior. They will also write about how the heart works.

R E

The children will look at Humanism as a way of life and compare and contrast with previously studied religions. As we move towards Easter, the children will look at the Easter story in more depth and gain an understanding of its relevance today. They will also reflect on how religious beliefs relate to their own lives.

Science

Throughout this term we will be looking at living things in more detail including the classification of organisms and will investigate mould. We will be finding out how the circulatory system works and (linking to our PE) discovering how and why exercise can improve fitness.

Maths

To begin this term, we consolidate the children's knowledge of area and perimeter of different shapes. We will then revisit fractions and pay particular attention to multiplying and dividing. We will investigate shapes further by looking at interior angles. We will continue to develop mental arithmetic skills and the use of images to problem solve.

Art

Using water colours and oil pastels, the children will practise the skills of colour mixing and developing the technique of using two different media. The children will produce their own piece of artwork inspired by our scientific work on the circulatory system.

Music

The children will learn all about the musical staff and musical notation. This will lead to learning how to play a jazz tune on the glockenspiel.