



Dear Parents / Guardians

Merry Christmas! Firstly, thank you for all of your effort and support at home and in school this term. Enjoy the break, you and your children have certainly earned it.

In the spring term our topic will be '*The Groovy Greeks*'. As you can imagine, this topic will be themed around Greece and in particular Ancient Greece. Following on from last term, there will be a number of cross curricular opportunities within our topics allowing the children to extend their learning in all subjects and show deeper understanding.

In our History lessons we will be learning about Ancient Greece and some of the key periods, people and events. We will link our History work to our English lessons where we will study Greek myths and legends. Additionally, children will have the opportunity to write recounts, poems and non-chronological reports all linking to elements of Ancient Greece. Children will continue to take part in weekly spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and will need to continue to focus on applying these skills in **all** of their writing. Reading comprehension lessons will also make links to our theme. There is going to be a real push across the school with reading next term, as the inability to read and in particular in Key Stage 2 comprehension has a major effect across the curriculum. For example; when talking word problems in maths, following instructions or researching information in history. Therefore it is important that you continue to listen to and discuss what your child is reading at home as regularly as possible.

In our Art and DT lessons we will be creating Greek pottery and exploring Greek cuisine, again making links to our topic and other aspects of the curriculum.

In Maths lessons we will be covering multiplication and division, area and perimeter, fractions and decimals. Children will continue to have a weekly independent calculation lesson which will work on their mental arithmetic skills and formal written methods. There will be a focus on solving 2 step word problems and following instructions to solve questions - another example of where the children will need to draw upon their comprehension skills. Times tables remain key and we are working towards all children knowing all tables from 1x to 12x by the end of the year. Please continue to support your child and look through their weekly time table speed trials to see how they are getting on. These have been coming home each Friday.

In Science we will learn about sound and animals including humans. We will learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and make links to this in our persuasive writing in English. We will also make links to the ancient Olympics in our P.E. lessons as well as learning about gymnastic and dance.

Children will learn about databases and internet research in computing lessons, and take part in French and Music lessons with Mrs Stokes and Mrs Gilroy on Tuesday afternoons. Children will again have the opportunity to continue music lessons outside of the classroom.

R.E. and PSHE will continue to be taught on a Monday afternoon and will address the needs of the class as they move through the year and continue to cover a number of topics which were raised by the children in the questionnaires they completed earlier this year.

The children have made a good start to year 4 and are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging spring term.

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2018.

Mr Allard & Mrs Hadfield

