



Autumn 2025 Class Newsletter China

Class Teacher: Miss Aburrow

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday and you are looking forward to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome the children into China Class this week. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

Themes for the term - 'Into the Unknown' and 'Ground-breaking Greeks'

During the first half of term, we will be venturing into the universe and exploring the elements of our solar system. After half term, we will be learning about the developments and changes over six periods of ancient Greek history, focusing on the city state of Athens in the Classical age, and exploring the lasting legacy of ancient Greece.

English:

The units to be covered this term are:

- Science-fiction narratives
- Space poetry
- Greek myths
- Non-chronological report: *Gods, Heroes and Monsters*

There will be regular opportunities for free writing to continue to develop the children's stamina in writing extended pieces.

Maths:

This term, we will be covering the following units:

- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions

Mental Maths, Arithmetic and problem-solving activities will all be timetabled regularly.

Science: During the first half of term, we will be learning about 'The Earth and Space.' After half term, our Science topic will be 'Forces.'

Relationship and Health Education:

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory. For our Autumn term unit Year 5 will cover 'Growing Up and Changing' which introduces the physical changes that occur during puberty, personal hygiene, emotions and changes in behaviour.

Computing: This term the children will develop their skills in the following areas:

- E-Safety
- Databases
- Game Creator

History: We will be studying the book 'Hidden Figures' and discovering facts about famous people during Black History Month. After half term, we will be exploring the key events in ancient Greece as well as daily life for its citizens and the legacy it has left the Western world.

RE: We will begin the term by revisiting 'The Big Story of the Bible,' and developing our understanding of the key concepts in Christianity. We will then explore the topic of 'God.' After half term, we will be looking at 'Incarnation'.

Art: The children will produce an abstract space painting inspired by the work of artist Peter Thorpe using a variety of materials and techniques.

Music: We will be finding out about the life and work of the composer Gustav Holst and exploring his famous orchestral suite 'The Planets.' The children will explore how mood and atmosphere can be portrayed through the rhythms used by Holst to represent each of the planets and will describe their personal responses to the piece.

D&T: We will be making a variety of Greek dishes on Greek Day after half term.

Spanish: Our Autumn term topics are Body Parts, Transport and Christmas. These will be taught by Miss Bell.

Swimming: Year 4 and 5 Swimming will take place on Thursdays and these lessons will be taught by me. Please note that earrings must be removed for swimming lessons and children with long hair will require a swimming hat. Other useful items include deodorant (no sprays please) and a hairbrush. Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that sun cream or hair gel are not applied before swimming. It would also be helpful if the children could have sun hats and raincoats to be worn at the poolside if needed.

PE: The children will need to bring their PE kits into school each week. Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Burbidge on Thursdays, who will be delivering hockey and netball.

The children can now come into school in their PE kits on a Thursday. They should have PE shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors.

Dance lessons will be taught by me in the second half of term when the swimming pool closes for winter.

Important dates:

- Harvest Eucharist - Friday 3rd October
- Meet the Teacher - Tuesday 30th September 3:45pm
- Church Visit - Friday 10th October
- Parent's Evenings - Tuesday 21st and Thurs 23rd October 3:30-6:00pm
- Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
- INSET Day - Monday 3rd November
- Greek Day - Tuesday 4th November
- China Celebration Assembly - Thursday 11th December
- End of term - Friday 19th December

Homework:

- **Reading logs:** Please ensure your child reads to you or independently weekly and this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading and is a key dialogue between home and school. My expectation is one entry for every day of the week. **Reading logs will be checked daily.** Please ensure that logs are brought into school so that home reading can be rewarded and school-based reading activities can be recorded. All children will be able to borrow books from the school library and our class reading corner. With reading at the heart of our school, we will be encouraging the children to record their comments and personal reflections on their reading material in their log books.
- **Accelerated Reader/MyOn:** We will complete the Star Reading Test each half term. This will provide us with a reading age for each child and which will indicate an appropriate colour band of books at the correct level. All fiction books borrowed from the school library contain a bar code and this should be used to

access a quiz once a book has been completed to assess the children's reading comprehension. Accelerated Reader quizzes can be taken at home or at school.

- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. Word lists will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week and spelling books will remain in school. Please use the Bloom's Taxonomy spelling grid which provides suggestions on how to learn spellings in a multisensory way.
- **Homework:** Homework grids will be uploaded to Google Classroom half termly and will be linked to the theme we are learning about in school. All homework should be submitted electronically via Google Classroom. The children can either complete work on paper and upload a photograph or submit an electronic document. I will look at homework each week and feedback will be provided. There may also be opportunities for the children to show their homework in class to share the learning which has been taking place at home and celebrate outstanding work.
- **TT Rockstars:** We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. If the children can confidently recall their tables, this has a significant impact on their fluency, speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication and division.

Year 4: Please do encourage your children to practice their times tables at home regularly - daily practice will help to ensure that they pass the Multiplication Test Check confidently.

General points to note:

Please ensure that the children adhere to our school uniform policy at all times, including appropriate footwear (no trainers please). Boys should wear dark (black or grey) socks and girls should have dark blue or navy hair bands. Large, colourful hair accessories should not be worn to school.

Google Classroom is now set up and the class code has been emailed out to you. It is important to join as I will share necessary information with you on this platform. You can find your child's Google Classroom log-in details at the back of their reading log, along with TTRS, Accelerated Reader/MyOn and Purple Mash.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Miss Aburrow

China Class Teacher

china@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk