



China Class Newsletter



Spring Term 2019

Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a very Happy New Year! Thank you very much for the lovely gifts and warm wishes for the holidays, you are very kind.

This term our topic is 'The Ancient Greeks', I am excited by the opportunities this topic enables – Gods, Goddesses, heroes, heroines, monsters! Hopefully your children will be as enthused as I am! You should have already received a letter about the 'Greek Day' we are holding on Wednesday 9th January. It would be lovely if your child could dress up as an Ancient Greek for the day; it is amazing what you can do with a white sheet! Parent volunteers for our Greek food taster session are required...so please make sure you let the office know if you can help out in the morning.

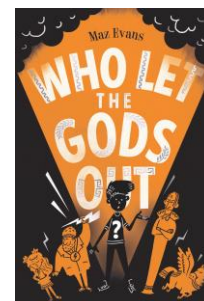
Here is a brief outline of the topics and themes we will be covering this term, along with some useful points to note. If you need any further information then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



This topic will find your children becoming great archaeologists and historians, delving into this exciting civilisation. You can find out more about this topic in our class assembly on Friday 8th March.

Literacy

We will begin our term by looking at 'Myths and Legends', a topic that is bound to inspire even the most reluctant writer! We will use the great Greek Myths of Perseus and Medusa; Theseus and the Minotaur; and others, to inspire us to write our own Greek myths. This will be followed by a non-fiction unit, creating our own explanation texts. After half-term, we will be honing our debating skills, linked to the Ancient Greek wars. Then we will use drama as a platform to produce our own poetry and fables inspired by Aesop. The children will be taught about the importance of written work making sense, having a purpose and being grammatically correct, through both explicit grammar lessons and as part of our Guided Reading sessions. We shall once again be using 'Talk4Writing' to inspire our writing through actions and images. Guided Reading sessions this term will include time to enjoy reading different types of text. In addition we will enjoy focussed learning sessions that will help to build up the skills necessary to become a lifelong reader. Our key text this term will be 'Who Let The Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. We shall also be dipping into other texts detailing the Ancient Greek myths and legends. Spellings will be given out on a Monday and the children will be tested on the following Monday.



Maths

We will begin the term by looking at fractions, in relation to division and their equivalence to decimals and percentages. This will be followed by further investigation into number, place value and multiplication. Topics through the term will link to our Ancient Greek topic with statistics and data through the Olympic Games, and the learning of Roman numerals. Throughout the term we will focus on using and applying our maths knowledge as well as developing our skills of reasoning and deduction. We will continue to focus very much on mental maths, embedding our knowledge of times tables and their respective division facts. Once these are known, we will focus on applying this mental maths knowledge to solving problems in real-life contexts. Times tables and a fluency with arithmetic is important. There are lots of apps that can help such as Sum Dog, www.teachingtables.co.uk, Your children have also been given a login ID and password to access TT Rock Stars, a secure interactive programme where the children can challenge each other in their times tables knowledge.



A diagram of a boat floating in water. An upward-pointing arrow from the water is labeled 'Upthrust of water'. A downward-pointing arrow from the boat is labeled 'Weight of boat'.

The children will have a fantastic opportunity this term looking at 'Masters of the Digiverse', an e-safety unit taught through digital literacy. This will allow children to link their writing, directing and filming skills to creating a short film about internet safety. Towards the later part of this term the children will be developing their programming skills, using the online software – Scratch. This software allows the children the opportunity to design, write and debug programmes to attain certain goals.

This half-term we will be considering the question, 'What would Jesus Do?' as we delve into the Gospels and accounts of Jesus from the New Testament. In the second half-term we be contemplating the question, 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' looking at Salvation in more depth.



This term all of our art, music and design technology teaching and learning will be included in general 'topic' sessions and will be inspired by the art, culture and music of the Ancient Greeks.

The children will have two P.E. sessions a week. The indoor P.E. lessons this term will be continue on a **Tuesday**. I will be teaching Dance and the children will be learning a routine linked to our Greek Myths and The Minotaur. Our outdoor P.E. session will also continue on a Friday with the Albion P.E. instructors from Brighton and Hove. We will be focusing on Cricket. Despite a summer sport this game lends itself well to the Year 5 key progression skills in P.E. and can also be played indoors should the weather not permit us to be outside. PE is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and the children must participate. Please remember that the correct P.E kit should be in school at all times and that children need to have plimsolls and outdoor kit, which should be warm for this time of year. No jewellery is to be worn, please ensure that all earrings are removed on P.E days if the children are not able to remove them themselves.

The children will be starting the term with a unit titled, 'When things go wrong' and following on to another unit 'Dealing with Feelings'. We will look at what children can do in a variety of challenging situations focusing on e-safety as well as peer-pressure. The main objective is to ensure the children are keeping themselves safe and able to understand and deal with their emotions.

This term children will be tested on common exception words and key words from the KS2 curriculum. These will not follow a specific spelling pattern. Therefore, there will not always be mystery spellings for the children to learn. The weekly spellings will say whether they will be tested on mystery spellings that week. These will be taken from spelling patterns from last term. Alternatively, they will have extra 'Topic' words to learn.

Once again the children will be given a 'Homework' grid, which proved to popular last term. The focus allows the children more choice in the tasks they complete. The expectation is still that one piece of **homework** will need to be completed **every week** and again this will need to be handed in on a Monday. More details of the task will be handed out in a separate letter.

How can you help?

- 1) Please ensure that your child learns their weekly spellings and times tables.
- 2) As part of their weekly homework the children must read for at least 10 minutes, 3 times a week at home. The logs will be marked each week on a **Monday**. However, please ensure your child brings in their reading book and log every day. It would be lovely if you could listen to your child read and discuss what they have read. However, I appreciate this is not always possible and your child might prefer to sometimes read independently. If this is the case, encourage them to record what they have read in their reading log, along with their thoughts on what they have read.
- 3) Support your child with their weekly maths, literacy or topic homework.
- 4) Encourage your child with any work they want to do at home and always try and make it fun!

- 5) **Walking home** - we will require a **written request** from the parent/carer submitted to the school office should you wish a child to walk home after school on their own. Without this we are not able to let your child leave school grounds unaccompanied. Please note that **the required age of a sibling collecting a child from school** is that they are **16 years old or above**. Please obtain permission from Mrs Copus should you like to make alternative arrangements.
- 6) **Home with a friend** – Please ensure the office are notified if your child is going home with a friend or another adult.
- 7) **Mobile phones** – Should you require your children to carry a mobile phone when in school they will be asked to submit it to the office whereby it will be stored carefully and returned to the child at the end of the day. Please note that St Mary's will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the mobile phone.

How can I help?

I am very happy to hear from any parent who may have a concern or who needs any further information. I will be continuing communication via Class Dojo, which will allow you to message me privately. However, I am also around most afternoons after school to see parents. You may also make an appointment to see me, via the school office.

Mrs Benson ☺