

Year 6 Class Newsletter

Autumn Term One – Ancient Greeks

Year 6 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back after what was hopefully an enjoyable summer break and into Year 6. I can't believe this is the children's final year at primary school. There is much to look forward to this term, and I am very excited about continuing to work alongside you and your children. We have already established fantastic relationships and will continue to build on these throughout the next year. In Year 6, I am looking forward to enjoying teaching and learning alongside the children everyday, and we are also especially lucky to have Mrs Chapman again as our teaching assistant, who will be continuing to use her knowledge and expertise, whilst teaching intervention for small groups.

Mrs Porter

Curriculum - WOW day

Children are to come in to school on Friday 7th September and enjoy an Ancient Greek WOW day. The children are to come to school wearing Greek outfits. They will partake in a carousel of activities throughout the day to experience what the daily life was like for Greeks.

Geographers

The children are going to be geographers and will name and identify the countries that they know of in Europe. They will also explore the geography of both Ancient Greece and Greece as it is now and see how it has changed over time.

Historians

The children are going to be historians and discover more about the people who lived in Greece - focusing on the Spartans and Athenians. They will explore how life was different for people living in each society. They will also explore the religious beliefs of Ancient Greece and learn about their twelve key gods. Additionally, the children will learn that the Olympics actually started in Ancient Greeks, and they will have the opportunity to compare past Olympic events with those still used today. Finally, the children will begin to focus on the Battle of Marathon which they will study in further detail next half term.

Swimming

Year 6 will continue to swim this term. **Our time is Thursday afternoon.**

Each lesson your child will need a swimming kit - trunks/costume and a towel. Goggles are also permitted if your child is able to put them on themselves. Children cannot swim if they have ear rings in, and I cannot remove them for your child. If your child wears nail varnish, tattoos or hair gel on swimming days they cannot go in the pool as these products can block the filters.

P.E.

Year 6 will continue to have lessons with our P.E. coach Miss Cox. **Our time is Friday afternoon.**

Recently, there have been a number of children who have been unable to partake in P.E. lessons because of lack of kit. We encourage our pupils to take part in individual and team sports, as often as possible, including extra-curricular activities. It is therefore very important that every child has their PE kit in school at the appropriate times.

If your child is unfit to do PE (including swimming) would you please inform the teacher involved, preferably by letter.

Your child's P.E. kit should consist of a blue t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls. Winter/outdoor PE kit should consist of tracksuit/jogging bottoms with a non-hooded sweat shirt for safety reasons.

Homework expectations

I would like to take this opportunity to outline the homework expectations now that the children are in Year 6. Towards the end of Year 5, we were experiencing issues with children not completing the designated homework, particularly reading. We are trying to prepare the children for their onward journey to secondary school and therefore it is important that we start the year as we mean to go on. Therefore, there will be a slightly firmer approach towards homework, reading and spellings/tables.

In Year 6, the children will continue to be given either maths or literacy homework on alternate weeks. Homework will be sent home on Fridays and should be returned to school the following Wednesday. Every Wednesday, a member of Year 6 staff will check that everyone has submitted a piece. Any child not completing this homework will spend their lunch time catching up on it. Any children who are finding difficulties with their homework, should speak to a member of Year 6 staff on Monday morning, so we can assist them during Monday Lunchtime. Spellings and times tables will also be tested weekly and are also part of your child's weekly homework.

Reading

Please continue to listen to your child read at home—pupils are expected to read for 20 minutes every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Parents/Guardians should sign their child's reading record each time they read. Year 6 staff will monitor reading, and any child who hasn't read the expected amount, will spend some of their break enjoying a book. We will also actively have a 'Reader of the week' to celebrate children's successes whereby any one who has read more than 4 times, will be put into a draw to receive something from our prize box.

Spellings

The children will enjoy 4 x 'Get Spelling' sessions weekly in School. Each week, these sessions will focus on a different spelling rule and children will partake in various activities in order to practice and apply the given rule. The children will then be given further spellings to take home and learn on a Monday, which follow this rule and they will be tested on the Friday. Any children obtaining low spelling results, will have to further practice any incorrect words during their break times. We will also actively have a 'Speller of the week' to celebrate children's successes, whereby any one who has the highest score(s), will be put into a draw to receive something from our prize box.

Times tables

Times tables are essential knowledge yet have been identified, for some of our children, as an area for improvement. Children need to be able to rapidly recall their times table facts, both multiplication and division, to enable them to solve more complex problems. They should be regularly practiced using 'TT Rockstars' or other appropriate methods. As the children are in Year 6, it is nationally expected that they should be able to recall all of their times tables facts up to 12 x 12. The children will be given 3 x weekly tests following the school's policy.

Behaviour Chart

Whilst in Year 6, we have introduced a new behaviour chart. This follows the school's behaviour policy still - consisting of yellow and red cards. However, it also enables children to be recognised for their positive behaviour.

Each day, children will begin on the ready to learn stage. Throughout the day, they can move up to good day, great choices and finally, outstanding.

At the end of each day, children who have made it to the outstanding level will add their name to the prize draw. If children make it to outstanding more than once in a week, then their name will be added subsequent times. At the end of the week, a name will be pulled from the draw, and they will receive something from our prize box.

We are also adopting a 'Beat the teacher' strategy where the teacher earns points for children making inappropriate choices, and the children earn points for sensible choices. At the end of each day, if the children have more points than the teacher, they can add a point to their 'Beat the teacher' chart. When they have earned 25 points, they will receive a whole class reward which they can select from given options.