



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. Here is what we will be learning about up until Easter.

Year Five Spring curriculum- 'Who were the Ancient Greeks?'

English
In English this term we will be exploring a variety of Ancient Greek myths and legends. The children will be designing their own mythical beasts and composing character descriptions. The children will then move on to planning and writing their own myths and stories, using similes and metaphors.
Mathematics
In maths we will be continuing with counting activities that involve counting in steps of fractions and decimals, steps of 10, 25, 50, 100 and practising tables (up to 12x12). We will be working with negative numbers and counting forwards and backwards through zero. We will also be learning how to use formal methods of multiplication and division. We will continue our work on fractions, learn how to measure and compare angles in degrees and convert between different units of metric measurement (such as kilograms, meters, centimetres) and imperial measurement (such as inches, pounds and pints).
Science
In science, we will be learning about Earth and Space. Children will describe the movement of the Earth, the moon and other planets in the solar system. We will also be using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky. Later in term 4, we will be visiting the National Space centre to find out more about Space!
Computing (IT)
In computing this term, we will be learning how to use i-movie to create stop motion animations. Later on in the term, we will be making our own stop motion animation to tell our Greek Myth stories we will have created in English.
Art, Design & Technology (DT)
In art and DT this term, we will be looking at artefacts from Ancient Greece. The children will design artefacts in the style of art and architecture from the period. We will also be creating and decorating Ancient Greek inspired pots. We will also be preparing and cooking a variety of Greek savoury dishes and thinking about where the ingredients come from.
Music
This term, we will be listening to, appraising and performing several classic pieces of music including: Living on a Prayer by Bon Jovi; We Will Rock You by Queen and Rockin' All Over the World by Status Quo. Later on in the term, the children will begin compose a piece based on the genre of hip hop.
Religious Education (RE)
The children will be comparing the holy books from two religions: Christianity and Islam. We will be learning about how people of faith use these books to guide them throughout their lives and making comparisons between them.
Physical Education (PE)
On Wednesday afternoons, we will continue swimming for term 3 and continue our indoor PE sessions, with a focus on gymnastics and dance. This session will take place on Tuesday afternoons. Later in term 4, we will revert back to one indoor and outdoor slot weekly. I will let you know of any timetable adjustments at the time.

History and Geography

Over the next two terms we will be stepping back in time and learning about the Ancient Greeks. We will learn where the major sites of Ancient Greece were, about the daily life of Ancient Greeks including food, trade and architecture. We will learn about several famous Greek inventors, mathematicians, scientists and the origins of the Olympics. We will also be looking at a variety of myths and legends from the period.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

In PSHE this term we will be learning about the importance of valuing our difference in faith and cultures and celebrating what makes us unique. In term 4, we will be learning about the potential dangers of tobacco and alcohol and how to keep ourselves safe.

Modern Foreign Language

In French, the children will be developing vocabulary relating to finding their way around town, they will begin to write simple French phrases.

What homework to expect and when

English and Maths homework will be given out on **FRIDAYS** to be handed in the following **WEDNESDAY**. Please can you encourage the children to keep the same standard of handwriting and presentation as their class books. We will be trying to promote independence this year so if there is a problem with homework, we encourage them to bring it back before it is due in to ask for help-this is a great habit to get into in preparation for secondary school.

Spelling homework will also be given out at the same time. This will consist of either a spelling investigation or a list of words to learn for a spelling test the following week. This homework will be related to the spellings we are learning that week and will form an important part of building knowledge of different spelling patterns.

Ways you can help your child

- Please make sure that your children are reading at home-we will be sending home ways that you can help them by discussing their books. Please come and talk to us if you would like some advice about what your child should be reading. Don't forget we still have a library in our local area-it's free to join and is a great resource for topic books as well as novels.
- Practical activities such as counting money and getting involved in cooking at home, weighing and measuring can also be a great way for children to relate their maths learning to everyday life.
- If there are any problems with homework, please do not worry and have a really stressful weekend trying to get it done! We are always happy to have children bring the homework back **BEFORE** it is due in to talk through with us. We try, as the children move into the last two years of primary school to encourage independence as much as possible.
- Please ensure your child is logging on to their times tables rock stars account at least once per week. This will improve their rapid recall of the times tables facts, which will help them in all areas of mathematics.

Please feel free to come and ask questions of the staff in year Five if you need to. We would ask that you avoid the mornings as this is a busy time and we need to start lessons promptly at 8.40am. We like the children to begin their journey of independence-we ask that parents do not come into the classroom but leave the children to organise themselves.

PE days

On Wednesday afternoons, in Term 3, children will need their swimming kits. This includes an appropriate costume, a towel and a swimming cap (which can be purchased from the office at a cost of 75p). We will have our other PE lesson on Tuesday afternoons. This will be predominantly indoor; however we may need to occasionally run an outdoor session instead. Please ensure that your children have the appropriate clothing according to the weather.

Forthcoming trips

We are hoping to arrange a visit to the National Space centre in Leicester, at the end of the term. More details to follow. Please remember that any visits can be paid in instalments via Parentpay.

I look forward to continuing working in partnership with you all this year.

Best wishes

Mrs Lyndsey Thomas (class teacher)