

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

Here are a few reminders and information for this term:

Learning Theme

This term's theme is Ancient Greece and its impact on modern civilisation. The **historical focus** will be exploring what we can find out about the Ancient Greeks from pottery and artefacts which have survived to the present day. The **geographical focus** will be studying the Mediterranean region. We will be locating countries, studying human and physical features and using geographical vocabulary. The **design technology** focus will be to design and make a moving picture. Further information on what we are aiming to cover is on the school website.

Year 4 Production

As part of our Ancient Greek theme we are planning a small Year 4 production. Scripts, song sheets and costume lists will be sent home this term. The performances – one to 4B parents and one to 4G parents - are likely to be in the final week of the Spring Term – the week beginning 31st March – but these will be confirmed. All performances will be at 9.20 am.

Trips

We will be going to the British Museum to look at Greek artefacts on Wednesday 5th February. If you are able to come along on the trip, please let your class teacher know.

English

Our **English** focus for this half-term will be exploring a range of Greek myths. Any reading at home on Greek Myths or information books about the Greeks would add to the children's understanding and knowledge. The two main myths we will look at as units of work in English lessons are 'Perseus' and 'Daedalus and Icarus'. After half-term, we will be reading The Firework-maker's Daughter.

Arts Week

This year's theme for arts week will be What Makes Me, Me? We may need parental help during Arts Week (week commencing 10th February) and will put up a parent support timetable nearer the time.

Reading Journals

Reading Journals need to be in school **every** day. Children are expected to complete at least four standard logs a week and this term we will alternate between a creative task and a vocabulary focused task each week. This information has been stuck into their reading journal. This was explained to all the children in class but if you have any queries, please let us know.

Please can we remind you that however fluent your child is at reading, it is still really valuable for them to read aloud to an adult at least twice a week. This provides an opportunity to discuss any new vocabulary and review the text together.

We regularly remind children that they should present their RJs to the same quality they present their English books. If you notice they are becoming scruffy, please remind them of the expectation.

PE Days

PE days this term are Monday (outdoor PE with Brian) and Wednesday (dance with Mr Griffin). This term, order to maximise the amount of time children have for PE, we will be asking children to go home in their PE kits after PE on a Wednesday.

A number of girls are sensibly wearing tights for school at the moment. Please note that tights aren't to be worn for PE so please provide your daughter with a suitable pair of sports socks.

Home Learning

Thank you for your support with the children's home learning last term. There were some wonderful outcomes, especially the projects around the Second World War. Just like before, home learning will be given **out on a Friday** and **collected on a Thursday**. Please remember this should take no more than 60 minutes a week. If your child is finding the work difficult or it is creating problems,

please encourage them to ask for our support at school or write us an email directly.

Times Tables Practice

The children worked really hard on their times tables last year but they need to keep practising as regularly as possible. Little and often is key. The expectation is that children should be able to recall at speed all the times tables and division facts by the end of Year 4. As you all know, we have purchased Times Tables Rockstars for the children in Y4 and expect them to use this regularly over the course of the week. **For two weeks from June 8th, your child will be expected to sit a national times tables assessment. In this test, they will be asked 25 random times tables questions (up to 12x12) and will be given 6 seconds to answer each one. We expect every child to meet the national expectation. To help, please practice the 'Soundcheck' game 3-4 times a week at least. This replicates the test that children will be sitting and will help them to be confident recalling facts at speed.**

Spellings

Please remember that children need their spelling folders in school **every day but particularly on Friday**. Weekly spelling practice is vital – please ensure your child's weekly words are revisited regularly over the week. Children also have to learn the Y3/4 words. This list is in their spelling folder and the words they know since our last assessment are highlighted yellow. The expectation is that the children need to know all the spellings on this list by the end of Year 4. We have purchased Spelling Shed this year and the expectation is that your child uses this 2-3 times a week.

Weekly Overview

Attached to this e-mail is an overview of this term's timetable and reminders for each day which we hope will be useful. Learning does start each day at 8:45 so the earlier your child enters class, the more learning they do.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this. We're all looking forward to another productive and enjoyable term with your children. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

Best wishes,

Scott Griffin and Tom Brookes