

Year 5 Newsletter Summer One

Welcome back!

I hope that you have all had a fantastic Easter break. Last half term was a busy five weeks! The children enjoyed learning all about Mountain environments and were particularly interested in learning about avalanches. They produced some wonderful pieces of Journalistic writing in response to learning about the avalanche at Hotel Rigopiano in Italy; their work is on display outside Maple classroom. There is a lot to look forward to this half term. Our new topic is 'Ancient Greece'. Children will learn all about life in Ancient Greek times, produce Ancient Greek vases and mosaics and understand key battles and wars (such as the Battle of Marathon and the Trojan war).

LITERACY

In Literacy this half term, Maple will be using the book 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan as a basis for Guided Reading activities. This will be read alongside non-fiction texts about the Ancient Greeks and newspaper articles.

In English, we will be learning about the features of myths. Children will find out about traditional Ancient Greek myths such as King Midas and Theseus and the Minotaur. They will explore Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses and have a go at creating their own mythical beast, which will feature in their own myth.

Following the work on myths, children will write balanced discussions (balanced arguments) about a contentious issue - The Elgin Marbles (which were removed from the Parthenon in Greece).

Key vocabulary: myth, Centaur, Medusa, Cerebrus, Chimeara, suspense, personification.

Mathematics

At the end of last half term, children enjoyed testing out their understanding of fractions by producing a fractions board game and getting involved in an outdoor fractions treasure hunt. This half term, children will be working with decimals. They will use hundred squares to represent one, breaking them down into their tenths and individual squares (hundredths). Using place value charts, children will practice adding and subtracting tenths, hundredths and thousandths to the correct columns. Children will move onto adding and subtracting decimals crossing a whole one.

Following their work on decimals, children will be moving onto learning about properties of shapes. They will measure angles using a protractor. Children will learn to calculate angles on a straight line and around a point.

Key vocabulary: degrees, ones, tenths, hundredths, thousandths, place value, protractor, obtuse, reflex, right angle, acute.



SCIENCE

In Science this half term, our topic will be **Forces**.

Children will explore forces such as gravity, air resistance and water resistance in a series of experiments. They will attempt to create a parachute which harnesses and uses air resistance to its advantage.





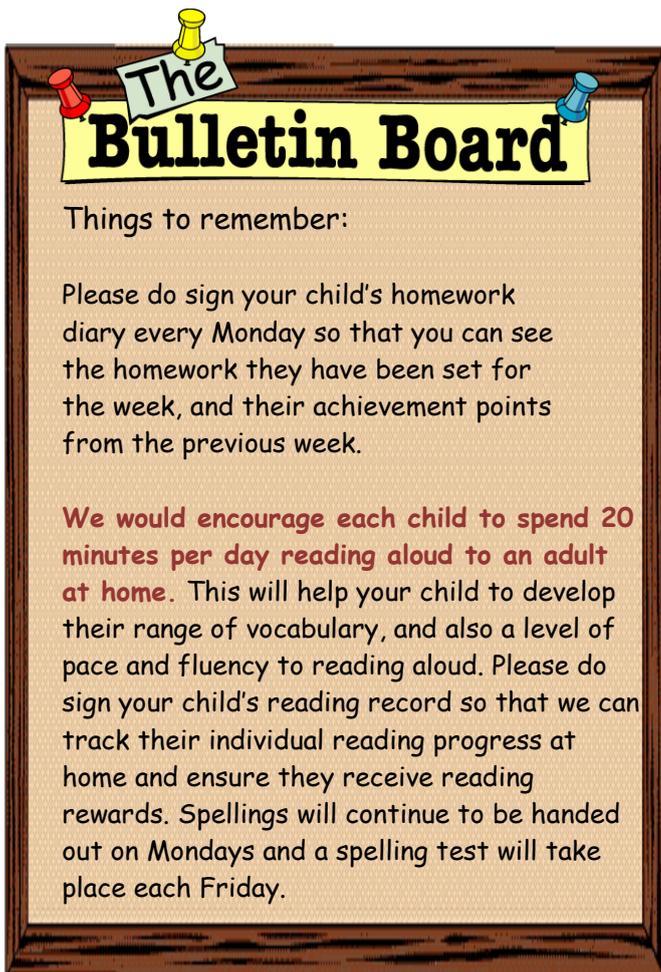
Other Curriculum Areas

PE - In PE, we will continue to follow the 'REAL PE' scheme of work for year five. Children will also continue to develop co-operation in team games. PE will continue to be every Thursday and children should ensure their PE kit is in the academy every Thursday.

RE and PSHE - RE and PSHE will be taught by Mrs Bingley this half term, on Monday afternoons. Honesty will be the main topic for this coming half term in PSHE.

Computing - Children will be using powerpoint to showcase their learning about famous Ancient Greek scientists and mathematicians such as: Aristotle, Sophodes, Plato, Archimedes and Pythagoras.

MFL - Maple will continue to be taught specialist Spanish lessons every Friday.

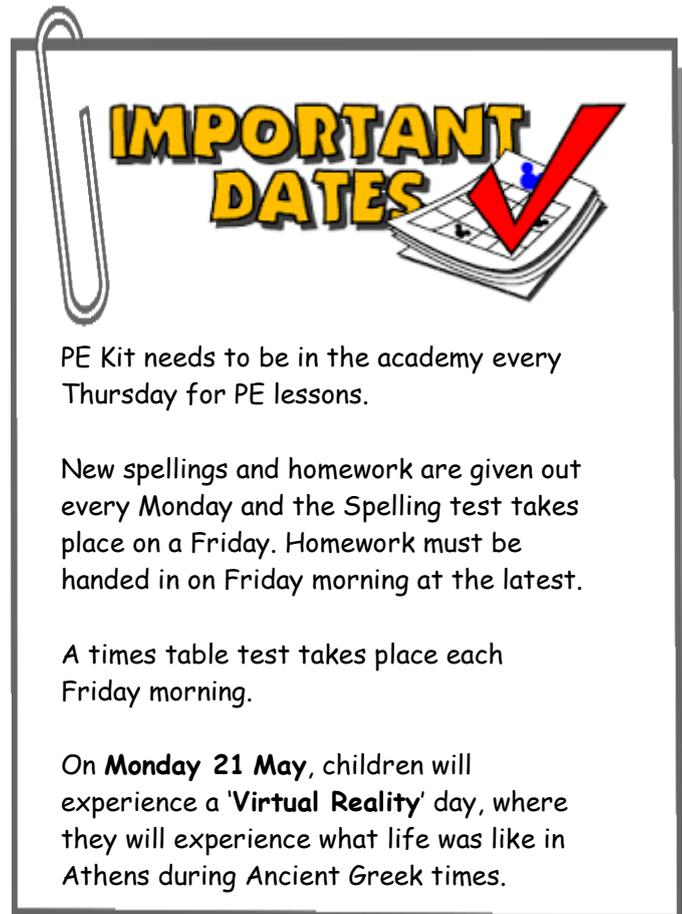


The Bulletin Board

Things to remember:

Please do sign your child's homework diary every Monday so that you can see the homework they have been set for the week, and their achievement points from the previous week.

We would encourage each child to spend 20 minutes per day reading aloud to an adult at home. This will help your child to develop their range of vocabulary, and also a level of pace and fluency to reading aloud. Please do sign your child's reading record so that we can track their individual reading progress at home and ensure they receive reading rewards. Spellings will continue to be handed out on Mondays and a spelling test will take place each Friday.



IMPORTANT DATES

PE Kit needs to be in the academy every Thursday for PE lessons.

New spellings and homework are given out every Monday and the Spelling test takes place on a Friday. Homework must be handed in on Friday morning at the latest.

A times table test takes place each Friday morning.

On **Monday 21 May**, children will experience a 'Virtual Reality' day, where they will experience what life was like in Athens during Ancient Greek times.

Maths link: <http://uk.mathletics.com/>

Literacy link: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

E-safety link: <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

Topic link: <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/mountains.htm>

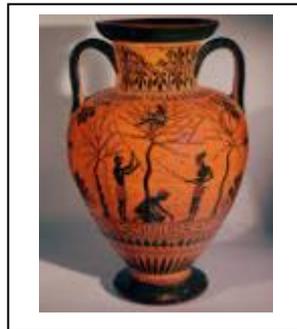


It's time to find out about...

Ancient Greece

Who were the Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greeks lived around 3500 years ago and their legacy impacts on life today. The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey. The Ancient Greek empire spread over most of Europe. The Greek empire was most powerful between 2000BC and 146BC.



How do we know about this civilisation?

Archaeologists have dug up **Ancient Greek** artefacts and buildings and marine archaeologists have found wrecks of **Ancient Greek** ships and their cargoes. Artefacts such as Greek Vases and Mosaics tell us lots about life then.

Which famous battles and wars happened during Ancient Greek times?

The Greek states often fought each other. Sparta and Athens fought a long war, called the Peloponnesian War, from 431 to 404 BC. Sparta won. Only the threat of invasion by a foreign enemy made the Greeks forget their quarrels and fight on the same side.

What was daily life like for Ancient Greeks?

Most Greek houses were small, with a walled garden or yard in the middle. The house was made of sun-dried mud brick. Mud houses crumbled away in a few years, and had to be rebuilt. Rich Greeks had slaves - sometimes 50 slaves worked for a rich family. Slaves did the hard work, on the farm, in the fields and workshops and in the house too. The olive was the most valuable tree in Greece. People ate the fruit, but also crushed olives to make olive oil. They used the oil for cooking, in oil lamps, and cosmetics.

What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?

The arts, sports, medicine, law, language, science, mathematics, philosophy, buildings and even some inventions, have all been greatly influenced by the **Ancient Greeks**.

Who were important Ancient Greeks?

Alexander the Great, Socrates, Plato, Archimedes, Pythagoras.