



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,



As we approach the end of a successful 2014, we look forward to a well-deserved Christmas break and the beginning of 2015. Year 6 have enjoyed the Parliament topic and I am pleased with the work produced by all children and the progress that the class have made across the curriculum, particularly in maths, writing and reading.

We have enjoyed a fantastic Autumn Term and are now looking forward to the Spring Term and our new learning theme in Year 6 for the first half of the Spring Term '**Greece Lightning**'. To launch this theme, the children will be having our own 'Greek Olympics' and looking at myths and legends with the aim of producing short dramatic pieces.

This theme will be linked across our topic work focusing primarily on Art and Design, History, Geography and Science. The topic will also include links to other National Curriculum subjects including Dance, Music, Computing and Languages.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – 'Greece Lightning'

Areas of study for the first half of the Spring Term will include:

- Develop research questions to guide research.
- Use different sources of research to find out about Ancient Greece.
- Identify and describe geographical features.
- Use 4 and 6 figure grid references.
- Identify how the past influences the present.
- Present understanding of why people would want to visit Greece.
- To understand the role of archaeologists.
- Use research and evidence to influence the design, make and decorate a clay pot.
- Understand that no single sources of information can provide a full picture about the past.
- To undertake historical research and present findings in an original way.

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Ancient Greece civilization, daily life, Marathon, Athens, Sparta, Ancient Olympics, observational drawing, temples, properties of materials, erode, civilizations

MATHS

Maths will continue to be taught daily in class and in addition 'Big Maths' will continue to be delivered in ability groups across the school. The main objectives are as follows: number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling. We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables. We will be working on **calculating using effective written methods, symbols and images, fractions and percentages; solving problems, properties shapes; Handling data and measures, including the likelihood of events.** We will also be focusing on beginning revision sessions in the lead up to SATs in May.

ENGLISH

We will study Literacy and Language and there will be many opportunities for a wide variety of assessed writing and revision session as we prepare for SATs. We will also 'step up' our regular taught grammar and spelling sessions and provide additional booster sessions for identified children.



Our English topics include the unit '**Short story with flashbacks**' and '**Biography and Autobiography**' during next half-term.

- Recommended classic reading includes: *Tom's Midnight Garden*, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *Stig of the Dump* and *Alexander Selkirk – the biography*.

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, it is crucial to support their progression with reading comprehension and has a vital impact on their own writing across the curriculum. The children have the opportunity to visit the library at lunchtime and once a week as a class; in this session, they can change their library book. There is also extra provision on a Wednesday for some children to have reading time with an adult. As I may have mentioned in parent evening appointments, please encourage your child to read a variety of texts, including *stories, non-fiction, magazines, comics, children's newspapers and poetry*.

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT – Trips and Assemblies

The children will be learning about the life and times of Ancient Greeks. We aim to share with you our re-enactment of the battle of Athens and Sparta, along with the story of Troy. I am also hopeful for a visit of a History Ancient Greek day and food tasting session which there will be plenty of food to go around! More details of dates to follow.

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a half termly Home Learning Project entitled 'Greek Myths and Modern Day Greece'. This is not a compulsory project however it will be beneficial to the learning in class if your child could complete some of the ideas under the headings – **Creativity, Research and Mathematical**. I was pleased that some members of the class completed this and it was very useful to share their knowledge and understanding. I am hopeful of more children completing this over the Christmas holidays.

I will continue to set weekly Maths and English key skills- which have proved popular with many parents and acts as a revision for your child. Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. Please encourage your child to independently be responsible for their homework as this will be the expectation of secondary school. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break time. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

PE

Children will partake in two hours of PE each week, one indoor and one outdoor. Our PE days are *Tuesday* and *Friday*. Please remind your child it is their responsibility to bring their full PE kit into school on a Monday, leave it in school all week then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school. Can we remind you that school rules state that for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. If your child forgets their PE kit on the designated PE day, a letter will be sent home to inform you.

REVISION FOR SATs

Revision booklets that have been requested have now been sent out and I encourage your child (or through their own revision) to complete a couple of units per week. If they wish to discuss or get extra help with particular units or areas they are unsure of, I am more than happy to see your child during break and lunch times if they bring their booklet or revision notes in.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either myself or a member of the year 6 team at the start of the school day or by making an appointment via the school office. We look forward to continue working in partnership with you to ensure that your child makes progress and has an enjoyable learning experience.

I am pleased with the way Year 6 have completed the Autumn Term. I know that a lot of hard work is coming our way in Spring, but I am confident if we continue to strive to be the best and enjoy our learning this will be a very successful term.

Keep going Year 6, you can do it!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a successful New Year.

Mr Robertson
Class Teacher

Mrs Frost
TA

Mrs Locke
HLTA

Mrs Sprouse
TA

Mrs Reynolds

