

During this half term our enquiry question is: **What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?**

Through this enquiry, the children will be introduced to the Ancient Greek civilisation, in particular the legacies that have influenced our lives today as they introduced their way of life to many new places. We will begin this enquiry by following in the Greeks' footsteps by creating our own laurel crowns to celebrate our own achievements from 2023. This will then lead us to begin to recognise the Ancient Greek's achievements through different sources– such as artefacts, maps and secondary information.

**Read through the attached knowledge organiser with your child and check they understand the content. You could ask them to explain it to you – 'teaching' you helps them to reinforce their own learning. Quiz facts out of order to check children really know the fact and have not just memorised the order on the page!**

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	Using our Inspire Education online resources, children will follow the journey of Theseus, from his humble beginnings in Troezen, to his treacherous travels to Athens and then, finally, his glorious victory over the Minotaur in Crete. Through a range of stimulating resources, we will be developing reading skills before finally using the story as inspiration for our own hero stories. We will also be using our reading skills to find out information about Ancient Greeks to support our enquiry learning. We will also be centring both reading and writing outcomes around 'How to train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. The children will find delight, magic and adventure in this EPIC world of dragons and Vikings, featuring accidentally-heroic Hiccup and his tiny dragon Toothless. The children will have opportunities to build on their reading skills through inferring characters' thoughts, feelings and motives from their actions and justifying this with evidence from the text. They will then write their very own character descriptions using their knowledge about the main character! Setting descriptions and persuasive writing will also be genres that we will be focussing on this term. When writing we will be focusing on prepositional phrases, fronted adverbials, ambitious vocabulary and organising paragraphs around a theme.	<p>Visit the library and look for books about the mythical creatures and dragons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write your own exciting adventure story set in a past time that we have previously studied eg. Stone Age, Ancient Egypt. Don't forget to make it exciting through your language choices.</li> <li>• Draw a picture of your own mythical creature and label its features. Write a description of your character. Remember to include detail about its appearance and personality.</li> <li>• Write questions about the text that your child is reading for them to answer. Can they write their own questions about the text for you to answer?!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read a story together and ask inference questions:</b>          WHY...? WHY DO YOU THINK...? WHY DID IT HAPPEN?          WHY DID THE CHARACTER...? HOW DID THE CHARACTER FEEL?</p> <p><b>Weekly Homework: Spellings brought home on a Friday to learn for the following Friday's dictation test.</b></p> <p><b>Reading: Listen to your child read as often as possible (at least 3 times a week) to practise fluency, appropriate volume and intonation/expression.</b></p>
Maths	This half term, we will continue to develop our multiplication and division skills to enable us to multiply and divide 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number using formal written methods. We will continue to work on our rapid recall of times tables up to 12x12 in our maths starters and fluency sessions, in order to prepare us for the Multiplication Check in the summer term. Towards the end of the half term, we will learn how to measure the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and regular polygons, using a range of measures (km, m, cm).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, daily times table practise is to be encouraged at home in order to support your child in preparation for the national Multiplication Check.</li> <li>• Times Table Rockstars (website or App) – it is important that your child accesses TTRS to enable us to track their progress and offer further support where needed.</li> <li>• Other online resources to help are:</li> </ul>

	Alongside our main maths lessons, we will begin daily times table sessions in preparation for this year's Multiplication Check, and we will also work on consolidating our fluency skills to add and subtract within 20 using mental methods.	<p>timestables.co.uk (games and practise activities)</p> <p>mathsframe.co.uk (games and practise activities)</p> <p><b>Weekly Homework: Maths homework will be sent home on a Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday. The children should also be practising their times tables regularly using Times Table Rockstars and other websites.</b></p>
Science	Our topic in Science this half term is 'Sound'. Through this unit, children will understand how sounds are made through vibrations and recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. They will explore and identify the way sound is made through vibration in a range of different musical instruments from around the world; find out how the pitch and volume of sounds can be changed in a variety of ways. Through scientific enquiry, the children will find patterns in the sounds that are made by different objects; decide what they should measure and observe, as well as make decisions about the most appropriate equipment to use to collect data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate sound and distance. See how far away you need to be before you can hear them do the following: cough, sniff, stamp, clap etc.</li> <li>Create your own table to record your findings in!</li> </ul>
History	In this enquiry about ancient Greece, children will gain an understanding of where and when some key events during the ancient Greek period took place. They will explore what is meant by the terms 'trade', 'civilisation', 'empire' and 'legacy' and explore how, towards the end of the ancient Greek period, Alexander the Great grew an empire resulting in the Greek civilisation spreading more widely. The children will also explore the differences between life in ancient Athens and ancient Sparta and recognise how the location of these places played a part in the success of this civilisation. They will learn about early democracy in Athens, the ancient Olympic Games and what every day was like amongst other areas of interest. In addition to this, children will use artefacts and secondary sources to develop their questioning skills and understand how past events have helped to shape the world that we know today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children choose a legacy of ancient Greece to research themselves and create their own factfile.</li> <li>Draw or create your own artefact from this time and write information about it to be placed in your very own museum!</li> <li>Create your own quiz about the Ancient Greeks to test someone at home or a friend.</li> <li>Find out more about the Ancient Greeks here: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39?scrllybrkr=b26a9a5a">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39?scrllybrkr=b26a9a5a</a></li> </ul>
PSHE	The question we will be exploring in PSHE is 'How can we manage our feelings?' The children will think about how everyday things can affect feelings; how feelings change over time and can be experienced at different levels of intensity and the importance of expressing feelings and how they can be expressed in different ways. They will be learning how to respond proportionately to, and manage, feelings in different circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss different feelings your child is experiencing, help them to identify the feeling and encourage them to apply some of the strategies they are learning at school to express and/or manage them. Note whether a feeling is 'good' or 'not so good' and its intensity – perhaps using a scale of 1-10.</li> </ul>
Art	In art, we will begin by observing Greek pots to find out more about Ancient Greek life. Through this we will explore the work of both artists today and crafts people from different times, as both the Greeks and some modern artists use similar techniques to create pots that tell a story! The children will use coiling techniques to create pots inspired by the Ancient Greeks. They will learn how to roll clay ensuring smooth surface and correct thickness and how to join it together to create a patterned bowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a design for a Greek pot that demonstrates your learning about life in ancient Greece.</li> <li>What information will your design provide about life in ancient Greece?</li> <li>Use plasatercine or playdoh to practise different coiling techniques such as spirals, arches, short coils, donuts etc.</li> </ul>

French	<p>In French this half term the children will learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognise, recall and spell different family.</li> <li>• consolidate the nouns and definite articles/determiners for family members and will also learn how to use the possessive adjective 'my' in the foreign language with increasing accuracy.</li> <li>• how to ask and answer the question 'do you have any siblings?' in the foreign language.</li> <li>• introduce their own/ fictitious family members in the foreign language.</li> <li>• recall numbers 1-70 in the foreign language and will use this knowledge to be able to say how old their own/ fictitious family members are.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach your family the French words for other members of the family.</li> <li>• Say how old your family members are in French.</li> <li>• Can you find out the French words for any others fruits?</li> </ul>
Religious Education	<p>In RE we will be investigating the question: What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today? This investigation enables pupils to learn about key aspects of Hindu belief and worship. We will find out some key Hindu beliefs, and how these are expressed in thoughts and actions. We will also think about being a Hindu in Britain today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out about the religion. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39</a></li> <li>• Find out about Hindu festivals that are celebrated.</li> <li>• Discuss what is important to your family and way of life.</li> </ul>
Computing	<p>In Computing, learners will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language. This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming. Children will also encounter programming puzzles where the pupil is given the correct code, but the commands have been split and mixed up. Pupils will also carry out code tracing, where they will read through the code line by line and say exactly what each command will make happen when it runs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fill, Labels and Arcs:</b> Children are asked to make patterns using filled shapes and labels. They then create an algorithm to create an abstract piece of art.</li> <li>• Create an algorithm to create a picture of a house using shapes.</li> </ul>
Music	<p>The children will continue to learn to play the ukulele every Thursday when Durham Music services come into school. We are looking forward to developing our skills, leading up to a performance.</p>	<p>Research and listen to some music played with a ukulele. What do you like about it? Is it like any other instrument that you know? Take a look at what else Durham Music Services have to offer.</p>
Physical Education	<p>In PE, we will be developing our gymnastics skills. We will begin by reminding ourselves of the key shapes and how to perform these with control. We will then progress to travelling at different speeds and directions before holding point balances. We will travel over equipment and create a short sequence incorporating all of our new learning. We will focus on accuracy and control throughout. Outdoor PE this half term is tennis. Children will be learning to perform the basic skills needed to play a game of tennis with control and accuracy. Our PE days remain as Thursday (Indoor) and Friday (Outdoor). Please can you ensure children have appropriate PE kit including a change of footwear in school for these sessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask your child if they can remember the basic shapes and show these to you.</li> <li>• Try out some of these ideas for practising your tennis skills at home <a href="https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/tennis-at-home/">https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/tennis-at-home/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>PE days in Year 4 will be Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursday (indoor). Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school throughout the week as this can sometimes be subject to change (shorts/jogging bottoms, t-shirt/polo shirt, hoody/tracksuit top and trainers – in school colours and all clearly named please).</b></p>