

Year 4 - Areas of Study - Autumn 1 2024

Topic Title: It's All Greek to Me!
Key Question: How did the Ancient Greeks live their everyday lives?
English (Reading and Writing)
Reading: In guided reading, the children will be studying a book called Who let the Gods, by Maz Evans. In guided reading lessons, we will be using VIPERS style of questioning (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summarise).
Writing: In our writing lessons during Autumn 1, the children will identify the features of a text, plan and write different styles of writing. This will include writing a newspaper report recounting the events of our own mini-Olympics; that we will host based on Ancient Greek traditions. The children will also produce a piece of fictional writing based on the story of Daedalus and Icarus.
Maths
Maths will be taught discretely throughout this topic, following the White Rose scheme of work. The children will be exploring the following topics during Autumn 1: place value and addition and subtraction. During our lessons on place value, the children will complete activities to explore and consolidate their knowledge of ones, tens, hundreds and thousands. Following this, we will revisit and further develop their understanding of column addition and subtraction.
Science
In science this half term, the children will learn about how sound is made, how we hear it and experiment with how pitch, volume and distance can alter a sound. The children will be constructing contraptions as a means to experiment how sound travels. We will investigate the relationship between sound and distance and they will learn about the different parts of the ear and their functions.
History
In history, the children will learn about the lives of the Ancient Greeks. They will explore different sources of information and discover what life was really like in Ancient Greek times; including the role of democracy in this time period. The children will chronologically order events that took place on a timeline, uncover different artefacts and compare these to other historical periods that they have learned about throughout their school career. To supplement this, the children will suggest reasons why certain events happened the way that they did in the past and what this has taught us; including how they have shaped our lives today in the modern world. The children will be encouraged to ask questions and deepen their own thirst for knowledge within this history unit. They will begin to build up their own collection of thoughts and enquiries to recognise the key role that historians and archaeologists have played in helping us to understand the past. Within this topic, the children will present their learning in a variety of different ways.
Geography
Not delivered this half term.
Art
Pottery allows historians and archaeologists to build a detailed timeline of events that took place in Ancient Greece. Most Greek vases were used in everyday life and decorations on the outside of the clay can reveal plenty of information about

what life was like for the Ancient Greeks. The most widely available clay used to create pottery in Greek times was named keramos. Attic clay was also used to create Grecian pots; it has a high iron content which gives it an orange/red colouring. Different consistencies of clay were produced (using a settling tank) to allow the vessel to be suited for the job it was required for. Greek pottery was shaped on a potter's wheel and made in separate sections (the foot, the lower body, the upper body, the neck and the handles) before being returned to the wheel to smooth over the join marks. The children will be creating their own 3D clay pot this half term. To do this, they will be using air drying clay to simulate the material that would have been used in Ancient Greek times. The children will have the opportunity to design and create their own decorations for the outside of their pot or vase and carve or print these onto their vessel.

Design Technology (DT)

As part of their work with food, pupils should be taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Instilling a love of cooking in pupils will also open a door to one of the great expressions of human creativity. Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill that enables pupils to feed themselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life. This half term, the children will plan, design, prepare, create and evaluate their own Greek inspired pasta salad.

Music

We will be using the Sing Up! objectives to scaffold our teaching for music, focusing on music from Ancient Greece. The pieces of music the children's learning will be based around can be found on the BBC KS2 Music website under the Ancient Greece section. The children will learn about rhythm, texture and a variety of musical instruments and techniques. This half term, they will layer sounds to existing pieces of music and compose their own musical scores.

Religious Education (RE)

RE will be taught weekly throughout the year. This half term, pupils will cover themes of identity and belief. They will learn about different religions and belief systems and how these differ and are similar to one another. The children will explore what we mean by identity. They will build upon their public speaking (oracy) skills when sharing their ideas with their peers, and respectfully listen to the views of others. Furthermore, the children will also gain an understanding of the Christian, Hindu and Sikh religions. They will learn the key features of each faith and assess the similarities and differences between the three religions.

Physical Education (PE)

This half term, the children will have two PE lessons each week: one gymnastics lesson alongside one lesson of outdoor PE. Gymnastics links well to our theme for this half term. The Ancient Greeks valued their Olympic games very highly and held them every four years at Olympia, to honour the god Zeus. In our modern world, we extend this legacy by continuing to hold Olympic games every four years in different cities across the globe. Alongside this, gymnastics was believed to have begun in Ancient Greece around 2500 years ago. Gymnastic tournaments were held in the Greek capital city of Athens, which included activities like tumbling and rope climbing. The children will gain a brief insight into the history of the Olympic games to accompany the gymnastics skills that they will learn and develop during PE this half term.

Real PE Gym:

In this unit, the children will learn, develop and apply balance and rotation on the floor, with hand apparatus and partner work through focused skill development,

sequence creation and games. The children will reinforce the development of fundamental movement skills and apply them to help develop the skills required in a range of games and activities. For example, the ability to balance, pivot and move with and without a ball transfers to a range of activities and sports. They will develop the physical and social skills to be able to perform partner balances safely and apply these skills by linking them to create sequences. Further develop rotation skills using body tension and extension, creatively linking movements through a stimulus.

During outdoor P.E., the children will develop basketball skills. They will learn to dribble a ball, under pressure from a defender as well as an attacking manoeuvre to take on a beat an opponent. They will learn to shoot the ball accurately towards a target and learn to apply basic principles of attacking and defending in small sided games.

Computing

In computing, the children will be learning about Microsoft PowerPoint, developing their skills within this programme and increasing their confidence with using technology to create presentations. As a final product within this topic – to showcase all of the skills that they have developed throughout the half term – the children will create a PowerPoint presentation linking to their persuasive writing in English lessons. They will be able to use the knowledge they have accumulated from their learning this half term to support the creation of their slideshow. The children will create a power point to advertise a visit to Ancient Greece! In addition to this, the children will present their PowerPoint to the class.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE will be taught weekly throughout Year 4. This half term the children will be focusing on the key components of families and friendships and safe relationships.

Within families and friendships, the children will learn about positive, healthy relationships with their peers. Including what these friendships look like, how to build them and maintain them. The children will also be reminded of how to seek support when they need to. Alongside this, a section of learning will be based around communicating safely and respectfully online using digital devices. The children will be know how communicating online is different to communicating face to face with another person, including the risks associated with speaking to strangers online. Following this, the children will understand that it is important to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about online contact from somebody.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

French will be taught weekly, we will be covering the topic of les saisons (the seasons). To start the year, the children will recap their knowledge and understanding of French phonics. Then, they will remind themselves of the classroom commands and vocabulary for the days of the week and months of the year. After this, the remainder of this half term will be spent building on this foundational knowledge by learning about the different seasons in French.