



This term the Year Four topic is **Ancient Greece**.
The topic offers many cross-curricular opportunities and will be closely linked to our Literacy and Art work.

This term's topics

These are the following topics that the children will be studying this term

Topic: Ancient Greece

Science: Sound and Living Things & their Habitats

ICT: 'We are Musicians' and 'We are Software Developers'

DT: Musical Instruments

Art: Ancient Greek Pottery

RE: 'Preparing for Easter' and 'What do Muslims Believe'

French: 'Tell Me a Story' and 'Sporting Life'

Spring Term in Year Four

What a great start the children have made to Year 4! This term we are looking forward to visiting Sayers Croft, where the programme of activities has been planned to support and build on the subjects and topics we will be working on this term. We hope that the following information is useful in helping to support your child in their learning.

Home Learning

It is so important for building vocabulary and developing understanding that the children read. Even if they can decode fluently, please can parents listen to their children for 10 minutes at least 4 times per week.

We encourage parents to ask questions to check their child's understanding and explain their thinking.

There will also be one to two pieces of curriculum based work. These should take *no more than 40 minutes*, so if you feel your child has given their best within that time, then please feel free to say 'enough'!

Work will be set on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

We have listed some websites linked to this term's topics that can be used to help your child consolidate their learning.



Useful Websites



Topic-Ancient Greece

1) BBC Schools

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/

2) British Museum

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/>

3) Woodlands Junior

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/greece.html>

Maths-General

1) Woodlands Junior

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

2) Nrich

<http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>

3) Cool Maths

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

Literacy-Myths and Legends

1) Myths and Legends

<http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/>

2) Greek Myths

<http://greece.mrdonn.org/myths.html>

Science-Sound

1) Woodlands Junior

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/revision/science/sounds.html>

Class visits, visitors and special events

As well as our visit to Sayers Croft in March (parent's meeting to be held soon!) we are arranging for the staff of **Chertsey Museum** to visit us for a Greek themed workshop.

This will be part of an '**Ancient Greek Day**' and we will encourage the children to wear Greek costume. Further details will sent shortly.

In late March, Avril from FACT will also be coming in to deliver a faith workshop with the Year 4 children on the topic of Easter, one of this term's RE themes of study.



Artefacts at Chertsey Museum

This term, as part of their core subjects of study...

Maths

This term we will be following the White Rose Scheme of maths, which aims for the development of mastery and problem solving skills through a detailed and focused coverage of topics, allowing for the children to gain confidence through practice and repetition. In a 4-week **fraction unit**, the children will build on their previous fraction learning from Year Three to explore families of equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions with the same and different denominators, simplify fractions and begin to learn about decimals, such as exploring decimal equivalents to one half, one quarter and three quarters, as well as rounding decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number.

The children will also be following a unit of measurement in the context of time, money and metric measurement. There will be a strong emphasis on problem solving and reasoning. You can help your child by asking them to explain the methods they are using to solve problems in homework tasks. It is also useful to practise multiplication tables with them.

English

During the first term we will be looking at various Greek Myths, exploring the important themes and ideas behind them. Towards the end of the unit, the children will write their own myth, using all of the ideas they have collected and developed during the unit.

After half term we will be focusing on non-fiction writing. We will study non-chronological reports and recount writing linked as much as possible to the topics being studied.

There will continue to be a strong emphasis on SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) throughout both of these units.

Science

During the first half of the term, the children will learn about **'Sound'**. The children will undertake various activities and open ended tasks to be able to observe and name a variety of sources of sound, to notice that we hear with our ears and to identify that sounds are made through vibrations.

During the second half of the term and reinforced by our visit to Sayers Croft, the children will learn about **'Animals and their Habitats'**. There will be a strong emphasis on practical learning and investigation during Science lessons, with the expectation that children will use their knowledge to create interesting and detailed literacy writing as a result of their learning. They will be continuing to develop their scientific enquiry skills such as predicting, fair testing, observing and evaluating.

We hope that you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas holidays and had a restful break. Thank you so much for all your help and support during an extremely busy Autumn Term. Let's hope we have a lovely and productive Spring Term as well.

Ms Peel and Mr Helps ☺

As part of their wider, topic related studies...

History

This term, the children will be learning about the daily lifestyle of the people living during the **Ancient Greece** times as well as have the opportunity to explore how the Ancient Greeks have influenced modern day society. Most of the lessons will include opened ended activities to enable the children to develop and explore their historical enquiry skills. These include asking questions, building up research skills and understanding the purpose of artefacts to inform us about the past.

Computing

During the first unit **'We are Musicians'**, the children will learn how to produce digital music using a software package, with strong links to the Science and DT topics. During the second unit, **'We are Software Developers'** the children will experiment with creating a simple educational game using the programme Scratch.

PE

The children will continue to develop the key **fundamental skills** that are needed to play in a range of sporting activities. They will also have the opportunity to develop their swimming and water safety skills, during their weekly swimming lessons. They also will be developing their stamina, core strength and cardiovascular fitness through an indoors multi- skills unit.

PSHE

The children will be taking part in many speaking and listening activities to enable them explore their thoughts and feelings through the topics **'Going for Goals'** and **'Good to be Me'**.

RE

To begin the term, we are studying **Islam** and thinking about the question **'What do Muslims believe?'**

As we approach Easter, our focus will change and we will explore **'How do Christians prepare for Easter?'**

Art

In art, the children will be making **ceramic pots** out of Modroc based on Ancient Greek designs. The children will learn about the importance of these pots as well as experiment with some of the techniques used to create their own pot based on the styles studied. **Please can you send your child in with a named art shirt for this.**

Design and Technology

In DT, the children will learn how to make a **musical instrument** which will link in to the Science topic 'Sound'. They will learn many important skills such as designing, making and evaluating their own as well as others' designs.

Music

Using the Charanga scheme of work, the children will learn some basic instrumental skills during the **'Glockenspiel'** unit as well as **camp-fire songs** in performance and, hopefully, some ukulele playing!

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

During the first unit, **'Raconte moi une histoire' (Tell me a story)**, the children will have the opportunity to learn/retell simple stories in French, as well as to say and use numbers to 100.

During **'Vive le sport! (Our sporting lives)**, the children will learn to say familiar phrases, as well as broaden their vocabulary and basic structures when talking about sport and their hobbies outside school.