

# Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term 2024

Owl Class year 5/6

## ‘Groundbreaking Greeks’

Our topic this term is ‘Groundbreaking Greeks’. In this unit 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’ and ‘empire’ 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. When learning about daily life in ancient Greece, children will explore what life was like for different people who were enslaved during ancient Greek times. They will then independently research and feedback on different elements of daily life in ancient Greece. Children will also explore the differences between life in ancient Athens and ancient Sparta. They will learn about early democracy in Athens and take part in a debate about life in Athens and Sparta. Children will use ancient Greek pottery as a primary source to help them gather evidence about the ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the ancient Games and the modern Olympics. In addition to this, children will learn about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks, producing fact files about the Greek gods. Children will sequence a simple story map of a version of the Trojan War and will explore historical evidence relating to the Trojan War. Studying ancient Greece will help children to develop their questioning skills and make comparisons; learn to use historical sources and help them to understand how past events have helped to shape the world that we know today.



## English

Linking to our topic the children will enjoy listening to our whole class text – ‘The Last Bear’ by Hannah Gold. Percy Jackson is having a bad week. His life has gone from totally normal to monsters-from-Greek-mythology-randomly-appearing kind of strange. Worse still, the king of the gods thinks Percy has stolen his all-powerful lightning bolt - and it seems making Zeus angry is a very bad idea.

Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to catch the true lightning thief and stop all-out war from erupting on Mount Olympus. . .

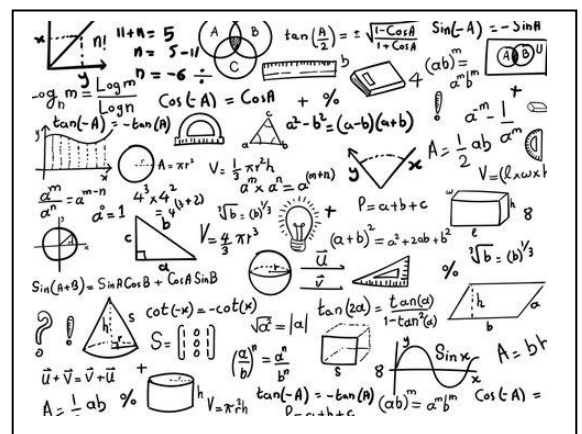


What could possibly go wrong?

The children will start the term reading Greek myths and then go on to writing their own. Writing a Greek myth allows children to explore the world of Greek mythology, bringing famous characters and stories to life. Children will write at length, varying their verb forms and enhancing their descriptions with expanded noun phrases, relative clauses and figurative language. Cohesive devices will help to advance the plot and editing will improve the final version of the myth. They will learn about life in Athens and write a non-chronological report focussing on using appropriate language to link ideas together and present information clearly. They will learn how to write simple and compound sentences and use subordination. They will consolidate their understanding of using consistent tense and appropriate punctuation. The children will end the term learning about famous Greeks like Hippocrates and Aristotle and writing about their work and how they have influenced our lives today.

## Maths

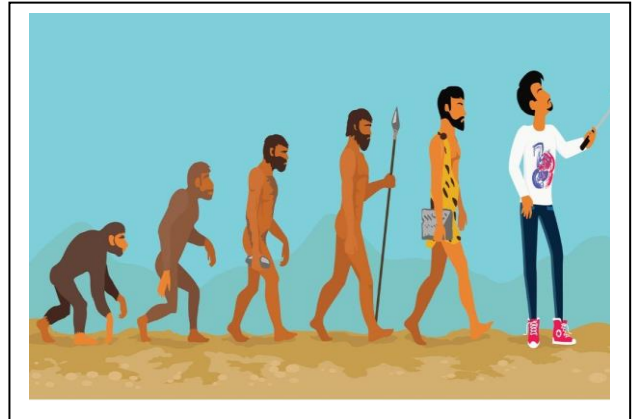
Maths this term will focus on shape, position and direction, decimals, negative numbers, converting units and volume. Children will become more accurate in drawing lines with a ruler to the nearest millimetre and measuring with a protractor. They will learn to identify angles at a point and one whole turn. They will use the properties of rectangles to deduce facts about missing lengths and angles and distinguish between regular and irregular polygons. The children will also learn about reflection and translation and continue to build on their understanding of symmetry; reflecting



in horizontal and vertical lines. Children will recap their knowledge of adding and subtracting decimals and multiplying whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. Children will learn about negative numbers; counting through zero in 1s, followed by counting through zero in multiples. They will also compare and order negative numbers and find the difference.

## Science

Evolution and Inheritance – In this unit children will learn about variation and adaptation. They will be able to explore how both Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace separately developed their theories of evolution. They will examine the scientific evidence from plants and animals that has been gathered to support the theory of evolution. By the end of the term the children will have developed an understanding of the development of evolutionary ideas and theories over time. Be able to explain how human evolution has occurred and compare modern humans with those of the same genus and family. Understand that adaptation and evolution is not a uniform process for all living things and give examples of selective and crossbreeding.



## Art

Textiles and Sculpture – The children will be exploring textiles this term where they will experiment with a range of textiles in their sketchbooks; overlapping and layering in order to create texture, effect and colour. They will learn key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding like colour, fabric, weave and pattern. After half term the children will be creating sculptures. They will plan and design a sculpture linked to ancient Greece. They will use Mod-roc to create a Greek pot and will learn how to create form. Children will learn about textile artists and sculptors.

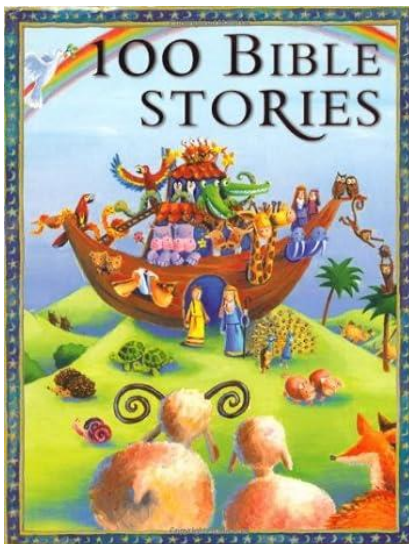




## Computing

### Programming – Variables in games

This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then will use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. In Lessons 2, 3, and 5, which follow the Use-Modify-Create model, learners experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, before they create their own project. In Lesson 4, learners focus on design. Finally, in Lesson 6, learners apply their knowledge of variables and design to improve their games in Scratch.



### RE

This 'Stories of Christianity' RE scheme of work will teach the children about Christianity through some less familiar Bible stories. After recapping stories they will probably already know (such as Noah's Ark or the Christmas story), the class will explore different aspects of the Christian faith by meeting characters including Ruth, Daniel, John the Baptist and Paul. They will explore how the Bible demonstrates the key Christian messages.

### PE

The children will need to have their full PE kit in school on a Monday ready for the week. The children will be taking part in swimming lessons and learning how to play tennis. They will learn and describe the correct grip and stance. They will learn how to play shots on the forehand and backhand side of the body. They will practise a variety of different shots and serves, hitting with increasing consistency. They will participate in games following the rules and scoring correctly.





## Music

Mrs Brayley, our music specialist teacher, will continue teaching the children each Friday. Our music topic this term is "Great Musicians and Genres of Music". Children will have the opportunity to listen to and identify different genres of music and to think about their distinguishing features. They will then focus on the classical musicians Mozart and Beethoven, as

well as other genres such as folk and jazz. They will also use a mixture of singing, percussion, body percussion and glockenspiels.



## PSHE

During the first half term the Owl class will also focus on relationships. They learn about their characteristics and personalities, belonging, online community, online responsibilities, screen time and staying safe online. After half term they will move onto changes. They will reflect on body image, body changes, looking after your mental and physical health, conception and IVF, responsibilities when becoming a teenager and moving into the next year group.

## Homework in the Owl Class



Please continue to log onto the Doodle Learning apps daily. The children are really enjoying using them in class and they are creating positive progress to your child's learning and attainment.

Please also continue to read daily at home too.

Year 6 have some additional homework tasks to complete in preparation for their SATs tests in May.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Smith