

Year 5/6 Autumn 2: Gods and Mortals

Dear Parents,

We are excited to introduce our next theme for year 5/6: Gods and mortals. This term, the children will delve into the fascinating world of Ancient Greece. We have some exciting events planned including a special dress-up day, a visit from Marcus' Dilleys theatre company and a history box from Hampshire filled with artefacts for the children to investigate.

Our studies will also explore the mighty Greek gods and the children will be reading Percy Jackson and the lightning thief, alongside a wide range of non-fiction texts and Greek myths.

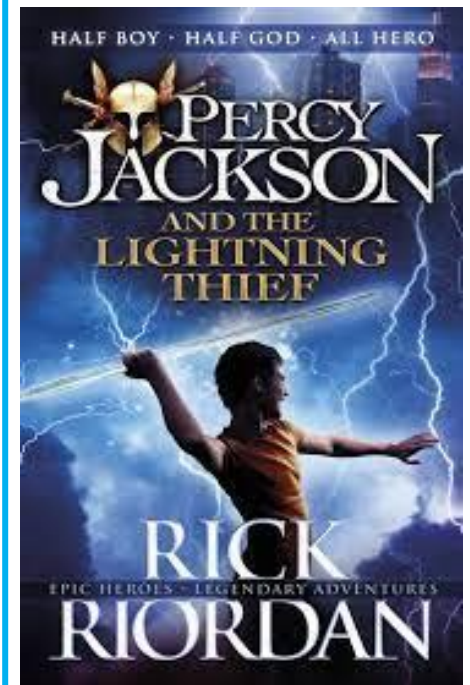
We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for visiting the fairground rides exhibition last half term and for your excellent support with home learning - it's greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Miss Stanton and the Year 5/6 team.

Theme

This half term, our curriculum will dive deep into the fascinating world of Ancient Greece. In history, we will explore key aspects of Greek civilisation, including the influence of gods and goddesses on daily life, the significance of the Olympics and the lasting legacy of democracy. In DT, we will be linking our learning by designing, creating Modroc masks of various Greek gods such as, Zeus, Athena, and Hades which allows the children to bring their knowledge of mythology to life through creative design. In Geography, we will be exploring the landscape of Ancient Greece, focussing on its mountainous terrain, islands and surrounding seas influenced settlement patterns, trade and daily life. The children will also locate key Greek cities such as Athens and Sparta on maps, helping them develop a geographical understanding of the region's significance in history. This cross-curricular approach will give the children a broad understanding of Ancient Greek culture and its impact on the modern world.



English

This half term in English, our driver text will be Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief which will be used to inspire a range of writing forms and purposes. Children will craft narrative stories focussing on the Minotaur attack where they will develop techniques to create tension and suspense. They will also write non-chronological reports about Greek gods, honing their research and organisational skills. Additionally, children will design persuasive adverts encouraging others to stay at Camp Half Blood as well as exploring and retelling their own Greek myths which will help them to further engage with descriptive language and imaginative storytelling. The children always thoroughly enjoy this unit of English and any additional research or work on Greek gods at home will greatly support their understanding.

Maths

After finishing securing our understanding of the four written methods, we will go on to recap and expand our knowledge with fractions, percentages and decimals. We will begin to look at shapes and angles, as well as looking at measuring time, mass and capacity. We will be focussing on boosting arithmetic skills while also challenging reasoning abilities through problem-solving tasks.

Discrete learning

This half term, our discrete learning focuses on three areas: PSHE, French and RE. In PSHE, we are exploring topics that help children develop important life skills, including emotional well-being. In French, we are building on language skills, focussing on vocabulary and conversational phrases. For RE, we are diving into important religious themes, exploring beliefs and practices that encourage students to reflect on values, identity and diversity.

Key dates:

Dress up day: Friday 8th November (see previous letter for details)

Year 5/6 Home Learning

If you can help with reading in school and hold a Hampshire Education D.B.S please can you let your class teacher know. It really does help and the children love it.

Spellings

Spellings will follow the same format as Autumn 1 where children will be taught a spelling rule throughout the week and then tested on those words each Friday. Their spelling stickers will be given out with home learning on a Friday. There are three levels of words given out so please speak to your child's class teacher if you feel they need to change the list that they are practising.

English

We will continue to give English home learning out weekly. This is given out each Friday and needs to be handed back in each Thursday so the teachers can mark these and hand back on Friday. This will link to Percy Jackson on some weeks to pre-teach what we are covering in class but it will also be a combination of reading practise and some SPaG work too.

Times Tables Rockstars & spelling shed

Please continue to login and play TTRS and spelling shed at home. These really support children to learn these key skills in an engaging way. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child needs their login details but they should all be printed in their home learning books.

Maths

We will continue to give maths home learning out each week which will usually be a consolidation of what they have been learning in class that week. It may also be a times table practise sheet as it is vital that children are confident on their tables in Year 5/6.

Reading

We are launching a new reading challenge with Year 5/6 to encourage reading. Each time a child reads at home, we would like it if you could sign their reading tracker. Every time they read they will be given a raffle ticket and each class will pull out raffle tickets each week for prizes.

Early Morning Activities

Early morning activities begin at 8:40am and focus on the key skills of reading, maths and grammar. Please ensure you are here on time to take part!

Helping at Home

Below are some ideas of what you can do with your child over the next half term to support the learning at school

Practise:

Spelling tests will take place on a Friday. Please support your child by discussing the current week's rules with them and the spellings they are learning. In the back of their planners is a list of words they should be able to spell in KS2.

Please aim for at least 3 sessions on TTRS per week. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child has forgotten their logon details.

Talk and explore (Here are some example questions to generate discussion about what we will be doing at school. Some of these will not be covered at the beginning of the term)

- Which Greek God do you like best? Why?
- Would you like to have lived in Ancient Greece?
- What are your plans for designing your mask? What do you want your mask to look like?
- Can you show me how Scratch works (a coding programme available online for free)?

Watch and Play

Greek Gods

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/zgt7mp3>

Learn about Ancient Greece through games!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7nrydm/articles/z2ngf82>

Scratch - used in computing this half term.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Read

Please continue to read with your child at home and discuss the characters and the themes in the stories. When reading, please make a note in their planners.

Art

Create your own painting of a Greek vase:
<https://digventures.com/2016/05/how-to-make-a-scratch-art-greek-vase/>

Geography

Research the historical significance of the different cities of Greece.

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Ideas for Home Learning to Further Support Your Child

**French**

Draw your own hybrid animal and write about it in French.

History

Research the historical significance of the Olympic games and their link with Greece.

Computing

Download Scratch and use the skills learnt in our computing lessons to create your own maze game.

DT

Use items from around your home to build a model of a Greek temple.