



## Year 5 Newsletter - Spring Term

### Eureka! How have the Greeks influenced us?

Welcome back and a happy Spring term to all of you! The children have come back refreshed after their Christmas break and seem very enthusiastic about this term's History topic of 'Eureka!' In this exciting topic, we will be finding out about the life of the Ancient Greeks and the influence they have had on our lives today. The topic will begin with a Zoom meeting with Helen Way, Head of Geography at Noadswood. She will be telling us all she knows about modern day Greece. Later on in the week, we will have a visit from local author and illustrator, Simon Chadwick. Simon will encourage us to think creatively as we create Greek mythical beasts. We will be using this History topic to explore contemporary issues to do with democracy, rights and freedoms. There will be many opportunities for debating, something this year group particularly enjoy! If you have anything that you could share about this topic, we would be very grateful. The class email address remains the same, so please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns throughout the term

#### Key Year 5 Dates:

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Year 5 'Greek Beasts' Art workshop with local author and illustrator, Simon Chadwick

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February - INSET Day (spellings to be tested on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm - Osmington Bay parents information meeting (hopefully in person rather than Zoom, but we will confirm nearer the time)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Osmington Bay residential

#### Literacy:

As mentioned above, Simon Chadwick is joining us at school to run a workshop with each Year 5 class. He will be talking to us about his own books and accompanying illustrations and will then help the children to create their own Greek Mythical creature! The children will be thinking creatively about their creature's characteristics to create a fact file and then transfer this into non-chronological report - thinking about its habitat, diet and appearance.

Our second Literacy unit will be looking at the structure and features of police reports. The children will then have some fun writing their own police reports, in which eye-witnesses will share their accounts of mysterious sightings of Greek beasts in and around the New Forest. We think they will have a lot of fun with this, being quite a dramatic year group! Their final reports will be judged by Simon Chadwick, who will consider which of the beasts is described in such incredible detail that he wants to bring it to life in his own artwork. The winner will receive a framed copy of the beast they have created, as visualised by Simon.

This unit of work will be followed by the children researching life in ancient Athens and Sparta. They will then decide which of these two locations they would have preferred to live in. Using their knowledge, the children will work on their persuasive and debating skills, leading to a whole class debate about the best location, which is bound to be heated! We will be exploring the concept of democracy in our History work, so the children will be involved in a lot of speaking and listening, hopefully respecting the views of others! This may be something you wish to extend at home by debating current issues. There are certainly a lot in the news at the moment. As a class, we will be reading The Usborne Illustrated Odyssey which brings the adventures of Odysseus to life and will, hopefully, inspire their writing in this exciting unit of work.

### **Maths:**

In the first half term, we focus on division and decimals; including comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals and writing them as fractions and percentages. We will continue to emphasise the importance of taking pride in the way we set out our work to avoid silly errors in calculating.

In the second half of the term, we will continue to: consolidate the 4 rules; explore fractions further, looking at equivalence and multiplication in addition to looking at shape and space topics such as angles and symmetry and translation.

Times tables play a vital role in all areas of maths and children will continue to have weekly tests to progress through the different stages of the school times table challenge. Practising their tables is still part of their homework and we would encourage your support with this. There are many websites online with games to help with this. Their tests will take place each Thursday. We will also be checking their Times Tables journals on this day.

### **Other subjects:**

**Science:** This term, we will be returning to the topic of 'Light and Shadow' that we started in the Autumn term. Sadly, due to a lack of sunshine in December, we were unable to complete our work on shadows; we hope January will bring us some clear skies so that we can complete this unit of work! We will also be looking at animals and their habitats, relating this to the beast they have created in their Literacy writing. We will be using classification charts and keys to sort animals and plants into their broad groups. Alongside these two units, we will be continuing to work on scientific skills and the language used when writing up scientific reports.

**Geography:** The children will use maps and aerial images to explore the landscape of modern day Greece. This will enable them to consider how the landscape affected where Ancient Greeks lived and how they traded.

**History:** The children will be learning about the Greeks and how they continue to influence our lives today. They will be learning about the Greek democracy, architecture, the Olympics, the theatre and so much more. You can support your child in their learning by reading around this wonderful History topic from various sources online. There are also some superb non-fiction books on the market. They will also be involved in making their own catapults in DT and investigating how these were used, in battle, by the Ancient Greeks. The children really enjoy this topic and the work will run alongside all of our Literacy work, thus fully immersing the children in this fascinating time from ancient history.

**Art:** Using Simon Chadwick's visit as a stimulus, the children will experiment with representing Greek beasts in a range of media. We will have a particular focus on the beast's eye, using clay to create a dragon's eye and various techniques to experiment with the dragon's skin texture. This is a new unit of work and we are really looking forward to seeing what your imaginative children create.

**PSHE:** This unit is titled, 'Living in the Wider World' The children will consider what it means to be part of a community and how we can show respect for the various communities we are part of. Alongside this, we will be exploring the wide range of media available to children today and, very importantly, how to make wise and safe choices when it comes to accessing information from a variety of sources.

**RE:** We will be exploring the concept of worship, within both Christianity and Islam. As we move towards Easter, we will explore what the concept of sacrifice and what it means within Christianity and the Easter story. Hopefully, we will be joined by a member of St Andrew's church to help answer questions arising from the children during both of these units of work.

**ICT:** We will be using a range of skills to publish our Literacy work, using images, voice recording and publishing skills to create a high-quality page about a Greek beast that could be shared with a younger child.

**French:** During our weekly French lessons, we will be using all that we have learnt in the first term to increase our confidence and fluency when speaking aloud. We will also be seeking to understand the main points from a short text and write short phrases from memory.

**PE:** We will be exploring health and fitness in this unit of work by improving our running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination athletics and circuits.

**Music:** We will be using the BBC 'Ten Pieces - The A Bao a Qu' to look at dynamics and tempo, using our mythical beasts as inspiration!

**Homework:** The children will have three pieces of homework every week:

1. **Learning spellings:** New spellings will be given on a Friday and tested the following Friday. They will need to show evidence of learning their spellings each week by presenting their spelling journal to their teacher **each Friday**. These journals use the Look, Cover, Write, Check approach.
2. **Times Tables:** Tables will also be tested on a **Thursday**. Children will need to bring in a completed grid of Times Tables (based on the one they are learning) They can also go on Times Tables Rock Stars to back up their learning. This has proven, time and time again, to improve speed and accuracy.
3. **Reading:** The children will need to bring in their Reading Record to be checked every Friday by the class teacher. There must be evidence of a minimum of three dated entries, **all signed by an adult each week**.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to email your child's class teacher using the email address below:

[5JF@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5JF@orchardjunior.com)

[5TT@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5TT@orchardjunior.com)

[5TB@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5TB@orchardjunior.com)

The Year 5 Team