



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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12th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Christmas with family and friends. Our topic for the Spring Term is 'Ancient Greece'. Please see our attached curriculum overview for information about the exciting things we have planned in each subject.

'A Child in Ancient Greece' Day

To enrich this exciting topic, we are having an Ancient Greece immersion day on **Wednesday 7th February**. The children will take part in a range of activities (including tasting Greek food, Greek dance and a mini Olympic Games) in the morning to give them a taste of Ancient Greek life, and in the afternoon they will be involved in a Rainbow Theatre workshop which will give them first hand experiences through drama and role play of what it was like to be a child in Ancient Greece. The cost of this experience (food tasting & play) is **£5.50** per child. Payments can be made to the office or online using 'School Money'. As we mentioned before Christmas, We would like the children to **dress up** on this day as children from Ancient Greek times to make the experience really meaningful and memorable. They will also need to bring something warm and some sensible shoes to wear at playtime. Please find attached some examples of Greek costumes for inspiration.

We also have some exciting book events planned to promote reading this term!

On **Tuesday 20th March**, author M.G Leonard will be visiting, to introduce students to the story of **Beetle Boy** and the wonderful world of beetles. She will be brightly dressed, full of energy, with an infectious enthusiasm for beetles and come laden with cool scientific facts, taxidermy beetles and props. This event will also include a book signing session and the opportunity for pupils to purchase a copy of **Beetle Boy** and meet the author after the event. The cost of the visit is **£2.50** per child.

We will also be hosting a school **Book Fair** from Thursday **15th March to Thursday 22nd March**, where children will have the opportunity to use their International Book Day vouchers and purchase a wide selection of exciting books.

The total cost for all these activities is £8, payable by Thursday 1st February. Payments can be made to the office or online using 'School Money'. Should you wish to discuss any of the above or have any questions please feel free to make an appointment with your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stone, Miss Warsap, Miss Stratton, Miss Lane and Miss Halliwell



Ideas for Greek costumes:



Science – Y3 – Plants – identify different parts of plants and their functions, explore what plants need to survive and how this differs between plants, how water is transported within plants, exploring the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

Y4 – States of Matter - The children will learn the differences between solids, liquids and gases and identify their properties. They will learn about melting, freezing and evaporating. The children will also be learning about the water cycle.

Y5 – Earth and Space – describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun, describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth, describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies, use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

Y6 – Electricity - associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit, compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches and use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

Literacy – Greek Mythology

The children will begin by exploring several Greek myths, with a focus on themes and conventions across the different stories. Inspired by Greek mythical monsters, the children will create their own creature and write a non-fiction explanation of its appearance and powers. The children will be producing their own short stories using the myths and legends genre, focusing on using descriptive writing and building character and atmosphere.

R.E – Symbols and Actions

Children will explore the meanings of symbols and actions used in worship such as bowing down, making music together, sharing food or speaking to God (e.g. in prayer). Linking to English, children will find out about different forms of prayer and meditation in different religions and worldviews, and write some prayers or meditations suited to particular occasions and traditions.

P.E – PE lessons will be focussing on 'Multiskills' which build strength, agility and speed through a range of fun activities and obstacle courses. Children will also be learning about traditional Greek dance.

Ancient Greece Spring Term 2018

Art – Clay Pots

Children will understand the use of pots in Ancient Greece and how they inform us about life at that time. They will know the key features of the pots – shape and decoration. They will learn how to use clay to make a pot or a tile, using joining skills and making use of line and repeated patterns, basing their designs on Ancient Greek patterns.

DT – Moving Toys

Children will investigate pneumatic systems and design and make their own moving monster toy (linked to their Literacy work) using a pneumatic system.

Music –

Badgers & Dragonflies will be learning about the parts of an orchestra and how pitch is written in order to read music and learn to play 3 note melodies.
Roe Deer will learn about notes of scale in order to learn to read and play 5 note melodies.
Foxes & Kestrels will investigate pitch and learn how to read treble notation on the staff in order to play simple melodies.

History – Ancient Greece

In this unit the children will learn about the Ancient Greeks - who they were, when they lived, where Greece is and the different elements of the Greek empire and the impact the Greeks had on life today. They will explore daily life in Ancient Greece, Greek gods and goddesses, the culture and the legacy of the Olympic Games.

Computing – Coding

In computing we will be learning about algorithms, working with various forms of input and output and continuously 'debugging' along the way. This will be achieved through a variety of fun practical and online computing activities and will ultimately involve the children programming hardware using code.