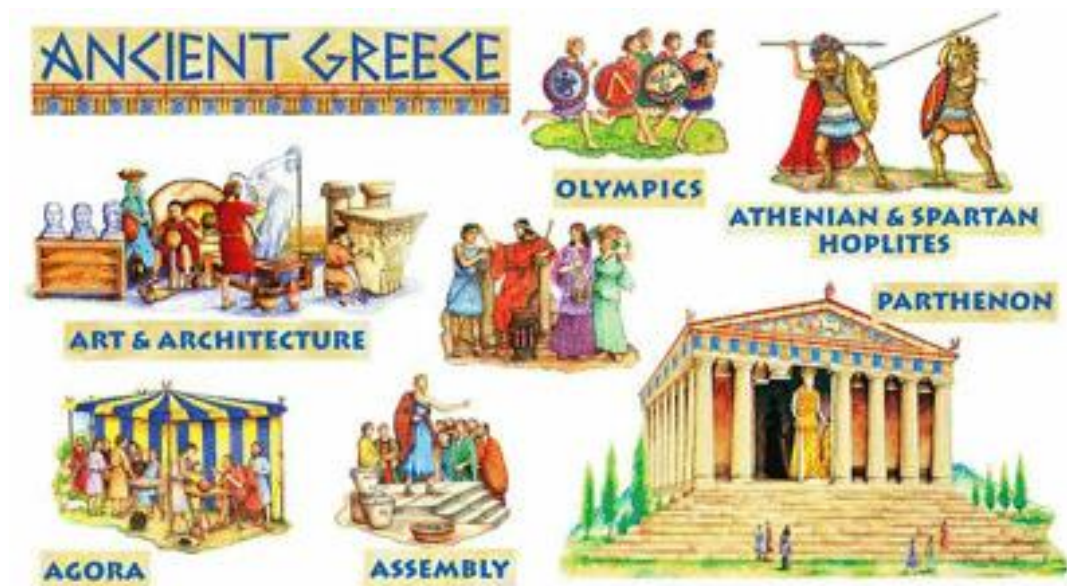


# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Maples class

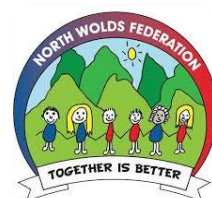
Spring 2023

Our Theme: What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?



### Our Key Values:

Caring, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation,  
Happiness, Independence, Respect.



Happy New Year to you and your families, and welcome back to school for 2023! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break. Spring term is short but packed full of great activities and learning for the children. This begins with our Wow Days (Greek workshops) next week, and a science visit just before Easter – there is lots to look forward to. Ancient Greece is a really engaging topic, as are our science units this term, which include Earth & Space. I should also add that pupils made great progress in their work last term, and they can be really proud of their efforts.

As ever, I want to thank you for your ongoing support; the commitment from parents towards reading and homework has been much appreciated, as it helps the children enormously. Thanks, too, for embracing the reading dogs – the pupils are very keen on taking them home! If you need to speak to me about any questions or concerns you may have, please get in touch with the School Office and I will contact you by telephone or email. You can also see me on the school playground in the mornings and afternoons most days.

### **English**

In English, we will base some of our written work on 'Who Let The Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. This book is one of my favourites as it's got some hilarious characters and is very informative about Greek gods, goddesses and culture; the storyline zips along really well and it's a great book to read aloud. Our writing will link to that text where appropriate, particularly by looking at characterisation, and we will develop our knowledge of and skills in the following text types: recounts, non-chronological reports; diaries; historical narrative; biography. We will also be looking at significant authors that link to our topic, and of course the Spring Term includes World Book Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March – more on that nearer to the time.

We will continue to improve our knowledge of spelling rules and grammar structures. We rehearse grammar skills and knowledge each day in our English lessons, and we use Read Write Inc to practise spelling skills. These spellings are also used for homework, to ensure that the spelling rules 'stick' as much as possible. Presentation of work is very important, so we practise handwriting skills most days, ensuring that work is of a high quality.

Finally, we will continue with our daily Guided Reading sessions, which give the pupils the opportunity to apply reading comprehension skills, including retrieval, inference, deduction and evaluation of text. Pupils will also work on an unseen text each week to apply their learning from the week and to build their knowledge of a range of texts.

### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics, we will move on to decimal fractions and percentages. Children will learn key knowledge about the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages, and they will gain the skills to convert between them. We will also learn to calculate with decimals and percentages, which

builds on prior knowledge and skills from last term. Later in the Spring term, we will look at converting measures, using our knowledge and skills when multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. We also apply our problem-solving skills to algebra, and to geometry (perimeter, area and volume). Finally, we will look at statistics, where pupils can use their knowledge of graphs and charts, as well as their skills at interpreting them.

We continue to enjoy daily practice of key arithmetic skills, facts and procedures, which will help the children to feel super confident with basic calculation strategies. We also revise our knowledge of the times tables, including by using Times Table Rock Stars. As ever, we strongly advise pupils to keep practising these facts at home, to ensure current recall of knowledge, which helps them build their skills across the maths curriculum.

### **Science**

Our topics this term are Animals Including Humans, where we will look at the human life cycle from gestation to old age; pupils will gain knowledge around the different stages of life, including puberty. They will also use their enquiry skills when comparing life expectancies and growth. After half term, we will learn about Earth and Space. We will use research skills to find out lots of information about the other planets in the solar system, and we will use our classifying and pattern-seeking skills to group them.

### **R.E.**

In RE, we will be addressing the question of 'Do I have to Believe in God to be Good?' – here, we will gain more knowledge about the 'Golden Rule' that runs across many religions, and we will develop our ethical understanding and skills. We will also examine Christianity's core ideas about Creation, and how they relate to science – this will build on our knowledge gained in our science work. As a result, we will develop our skills in religious discussion.

### **History**

This subject will focus on finding out all about the Ancient Greeks, their culture and civilisation. We will gain knowledge of how the Ancient Greeks lived, their religious beliefs, the Olympics and the development of democracy. At the same time, we will develop our skills in historical research. We will also learn about the Battle of Marathon, and ensure that we balance our accounts. Finally, we will use our evaluative skills to consider the impact of the Ancient Greeks on our lives now.

### **Jigsaw / PSHE**

Jigsaw will provide the backbone of our Wellbeing and PSHE curriculum. We will be using goal-setting skills in our theme of 'Dreams and Goals,' which is well-suited to the start of a new year! Pupils will also consider their own wellbeing in 'Healthy Me', where they will build knowledge and skills of how to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing.

### **Music**

This term, the two songs that we will base our learning on are 'Dancing in the Street' and 'You've Got a Friend' through Charanga. We will gain knowledge of compositions, melodies, pitch and tempo, and we will apply our appraising and evaluative skills to the music we explore, particularly by looking at cover versions of the songs, and how they compare.

### **P.E**

In P.E., children will cover basketball, gymnastics, hockey and wall games. They will apply prior knowledge of invasion games, as well as new knowledge specific to the games played. They will practise and apply the skills needed to pass and receive, attack and defend; they will also use their knowledge and skills in manipulating their bodies when performing gymnastics.

### **Art**

In Art, pupils will develop their knowledge of sculpture, particularly by looking at the work of Rodin, and then create a wire armature by using their modelling skills. They will also use clay-working skills to build a model of an Ancient Greek athlete from the wire frame. Using their knowledge of the Olympic Games, and applying their modelling skills further, they will create a wreath using natural materials. In Cooking in the Curriculum lesson, which form part of the Design and Technology curriculum, pupils will make Tomato and Basil bread – a Mediterranean feel to go with our topic!

### **Important Information**

As per the Federation homework policy, homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Thursday. For homework, children will be given spellings to practise using the tasks from our spelling task menu. Also, the children will be given some mathematics homework. This includes accessing Times Table Rock Stars and learning a set of mathematical facts that can be deployed across the Mathematics curriculum. Please contact me if there is ever a problem accessing Times Table Rock Stars.

Our P.E days are: Wednesday and Thursday

Please listen to your children read as regularly as you can. This reading can include stories and reference books, newspapers and sports reports, recipes and instructions, websites and magazines – anything where they are reading! Record your child's reading by signing their Reading Record Book: this will mean your child will be able to attend the exciting termly reading challenge reward.

I look forward to meeting with you again in person at the Parent Consultations later in the term; however, please feel free to contact me in the meantime if you wish.

Kind regards,

Mrs Parry

Maples Class Teacher