

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 3rd November 2023

Information for Parents of children in Mercury Class

Autumn 2023 - Term 2

I can't believe we are already into term 2 in Mercury class. Later this term I look forward to speaking to each of you during parent consultations about the progress your child has made so far this year and how we can further support their academic success. I am so proud of each and every one of the children for their hard work and commitment to learning both at home and at school. For this term I am hoping to continue to inspire your children with our first history topic focusing on Ancient Greece, learning about Greek philosophers, Greek myths and how the legacy of Ancient Greece continues to influence our world today. For our finale we use our Design and Technology skills to create recreations of Ancient Greece monuments using materials such as lolly sticks and card to create pavilions of famous places in Greece. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

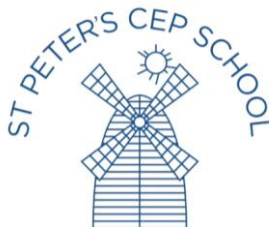
Values - Each term we focus on one or two of our school values in class and school collective acts of worship. This term, the values we are focussing on are **Friendship and Respect**, with a particular focus on Respect linked to the following verse from Romans 12 v 10 - "Love one another warmly as Christian brothers and sisters and be eager to show respect for one another."

Home learning - Children in year 4 are set daily homework every night but children do not have to complete their homework for the next day. They will always be told when their homework is due. A homework timetable can be seen below.

For regular practice of spelling, the school uses [EdShed](#) as daily practice of different spelling patterns. Children have access to this website with their login details in their reading records. Weekly word lists will be given to the children on a Friday and they can use Edshed to practice spelling these words with various games and activities. I will also be able to monitor progress on this website / App to check children are complete the tasks set for them. As an additional challenge I will challenge each child every week to see if they can beat my score on edshed with their weekly spellings.

Times table and maths practice will be set each week using the Times Table Rock Stars and My Maths websites. I will set new challenges every Sunday for children to complete during the week. Challenges will be based on content we have already covered in order for children to refresh their memory of concepts we have done before. As with other online material, children have been shown how to access the material and login details have been given in their reading records.





Each weekend there will be a set weekend challenge focusing on either History or Science work. It is advantageous to complete this work as I often use their learning from this to inform lessons the following week.

To assist with daily home learning I have created this suggested timetable. While it is not essential to complete home learning in this order it does help to create a daily routine. If your child is finding home learning challenging please do come and speak to me so I can discuss the home learning with your child to encourage learning at home. Home learning should be fun and engaging, not a chore so do speak to me if you need any support.

Daily	Reading (please encourage your child to read daily and ideally to an adult, who can sign the reading record that comes into school each day)	
Regular practice	Times tables	Test every Monday
	Spellings	Test every Friday
Monday	Spellings - Spend 15 minutes on <i>Edshed</i> to practice this week's spellings	
Tuesday	Maths - My maths online learning - Please use login details given.	
Wednesday	Spellings - Spend 15 minutes on <i>Edshed</i> to practice this week's spellings	
Thursday	<i>Times Tables Rockstars</i> - spend 15 minutes practicing our table of the week	
Friday	Topic/ Science Weekend Challenge	

Reading – The children will have a book from school that they bring home each night. These books have been chosen by the children and are set at a level of their ability based on their Accelerated Reader scores we do in school. It's really important this book comes in each day as we have lots of opportunities for reading in school as well. Please can you support them with remembering to bring it in each day in their book bags.

PE – Our **PE days** for term 2 are now **Wednesdays and Thursdays** so please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit on these days. **Please note that PE days change each term so please check the school newsletter or the school website for updated details.** Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days and will be in the kit the whole day. As we are in the Autumn, please provide your child with jogging bottoms and a waterproof jacket.

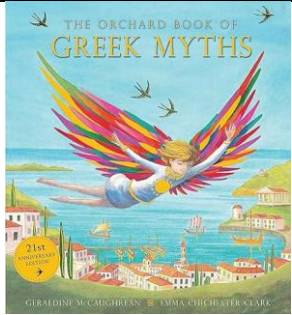
I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework, please don't hesitate to contact me or encourage your child to speak to me in class. If you would like to speak to me, remember that you can catch me at the end of the day for a brief chat or email the school office to arrange a telephone call or zoom chat if necessary.

I look forward to a fun beginning to this school year and getting to know all the children of Earth class.

Mr Knox



Mercury Class Curriculum Information for Term 2

Subject	To be covered
English	<p>In English this term we will focus on both fictional and non-fiction pieces of text, with particular attention to writing narrative stories, persuasive writing and poetry. Our first unit of work for the term will focus on narrative writing of Greek myths. Using the book <i>Orchard Greek Myths</i> by Geraldine McCaughrean, we will learn the mechanics of writing mythical stories and attempt to create our own. Later in the term, we will then write a persuasive argument, discussing which Ancient Greek God was the best and why. Finally to finish the term we will look at writing poetry, focusing on Christmas poetry. Throughout the term we will also continue to read our VIPERS called 'Who let the Gods out' by Maz Evans.</p> 
Maths	<p>In Maths, this term we will be focusing on securing your child's understanding of adding and subtracting by studying our first measurement unit of area. We will then finish the term continuing our understanding of number with a focus on multiplication and division.</p> <p>For our measurement unit on area, we will study what area is and how it is calculated. We will then look to apply our knowledge of area to make different shapes, as well as compare different areas by adding or subtracting them.</p> <p>For our unit of multiplying and dividing we will focus on multiplying and dividing 3s, 6s, 9s, 7s and 12s. Both multiplying and dividing are taught together for this approach to understand their common relationship with one another.</p> <p>It would be helpful that this term you focus with your child on becoming more secure with these times table facts, playing multiplication / division games and helping them to improve their mental recall of their multiplication facts.</p>
Science	<p>This term in Science the children will be learning about Animals including human beings. Using models, children describe the function of key organs in the digestive system. Pupils identify the types of human teeth and investigate factors that impact our dental health. They compare human teeth to other animals' and take on the role of a naturalist investigating animal faeces for clues about diet, digestion and dentition.</p>

History	For our first History topic in year 4 we will be exploring history of ancient civilisations. In Mercury class, we will be looking at Ancient Greece, and answering our key enquiry question of How did ancient Greece influence the western world? By studying this period of time, the pupils will gain an overview of significant people, places and events from Ancient Greece. Compare and contrast daily life in Ancient Greece with modern day lifestyles. Consider the expansion of the Ancient Greek empire and lasting legacy.
Design and Technology	For our first Design and Technology unit this year, mercury class will focus this term on 3D structures. Children will produce a range of free-standing frame structures of different shapes and sizes. Design a pavilion that is strong, stable and aesthetically pleasing. Select appropriate materials and construction techniques to create a stable, free-standing frame structure. Select appropriate materials and techniques to add cladding to their pavilion.
RE	In term two we focus on learning on the concept of Incarnation , with our big question being What is the trinity? The children will be exploring this concept by identifying John 1 as part of a 'Gospel', noting some differences between John and the other Gospels. Offer suggestions for what texts about God might mean. Give examples of what the texts studied mean to some Christians. Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in the way they live. Make links between some of the texts and teachings about God in the Bible and what people believe about God in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly.
Computing	This term our focus of learning is Multimedia . In term two we will focus our learning on creating audio productions. Pupils will first identify the input device (microphone) and output devices (speaker or headphones) required to work with sound digitally. Learners will discuss the ownership of digital audio and the copyright implications of duplicating the work of others. In order to record audio themselves, learners will use Audacity to produce a podcast, which will include editing their work, adding multiple tracks, and opening and saving the audio files. Finally, learners will evaluate their work and give feedback to their peers.
PSHE	For this term in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) we are learning about valuing difference . We begin our learning on this topic by looking at understanding the terms negotiation and compromise, suggesting ways we can apply these traits to our own lives. We will then learn about what makes people different and how difference can lead to stereotyping. By studying what stereotyping is we will then be able to recognise it in the media and what impact that can have on others. We will the finish the term focusing on what personal space is and how we can suggest ways to ask others to respect our personal space.

Spanish	<p>This term we will study, "Se..." (I know how...) In this unit pupils will learn 10 familiar activities that they know how or do not know how in Spanish. This is one of the first units introducing the negative form, allowing the children to build more interesting and complex sentences including the option of using conjunctions. The term will end with some fun activities around Christmas and speaking certain phrases for the festive season.</p>
Music	<p>For Music this term we are going to learn about Body and tuned percussion. A topic of discovery; children will explore the rainforest through music and be introduced to new musical terms. They will also use a mixture of body percussion and tuned percussion instruments as the children create their own rhythms of the rainforest, layer by layer.</p>
PE	<p>For PE this term the two sports we will be focusing on will be Netball and Dance. Netball will be taught on a Wednesday, with a focus on game play, teamwork and sport specific application such as shooting and defending. On Thursday, the children will focus on Dance as our second unit this term. Focusing on developing movement to music children will identify and practise the patterns and actions of chosen dance style in individual and partnered dances that reflects the chosen dancing style.</p>