



YEAR 5

Autumn Term Newsletter 2021

A New School Year

We have now enjoyed a wonderful month being back at Stillness Junior School and I can happily share that all children have settled well and have made a fantastic start.

The staff are excited about this year, especially the first topic - The Ancient Greeks. We also have many trips and workshops planned to give the children even more variety into our already packed curriculum. Throughout the year, we kindly ask for your continued support, to ensure that the children are organised for their learning by being on time for school and wearing the appropriate uniform. If you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Year 5 team on the following email address: y5@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

Meet the Y5 team!



Mrs Threadgold

Miss Curtis

Mr Squire

Mrs Kelly

Miss Oreckie

Miss Deileadora

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Ancient Greece'. The children will be learning about the rise and fall of the Greek Empire, the difference between Spartans and Athenians, daily life for men, women and children, democracy, religious beliefs, Greek gods, the Olympics and the impact of Greek culture on the modern world.



Maths

In Maths this term the children will be deepening their knowledge of place value, by adding and subtracting whole numbers with more than 4 digits, using estimating and rounding to check the accuracy of their answers. They will be reading, writing and comparing numbers up to 1,000,000, counting back and forth from any given number in multiples of 10, 100, 1000. They will also focus on multiplying and dividing up to 4 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers, using the most efficient methods. During each lesson, the children will be using the skills they have learnt, and apply them to solve reasoning problems.

In addition, we have just launched Times Table Rock Stars. It is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the times tables. To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds! The goal is for all participating rockers to be Times Table Rock Stars after 20 weeks.

English

In English this term the children will be starting with 'Greek Myths' using the quests of Hercules, to write our own myth. The process of writing will include the children using drama, oral rehearsal and story mapping the original story, to help them develop ideas. They will be learning all about Ancient Greece in Topic, which will help support them with ideas for their writing.

In addition, this term, the children will be writing an explanation text, a diary and several story openers where the focus will be on character descriptions.



Routines and Reminders

PE days – PE with Coach Shona will be on a Tuesday. Children should come to school in their school tracksuit (with the logo), white t-shirt and black trainers (if you do not have a school tracksuit please make sure the children are wearing plain black or navy sportswear and not fashioned tracksuit). This year, we have added an additional PE session. This will be taught by the class teachers and involve a range of activities that promote fitness. Please can the children come to school that day in full school uniform but we ask that they wear their black trainers. Earrings are studs only. Other jewellery, hair bows and nail varnish should not be worn. If hair is longer than shoulder length, it should always be tied up for all children.

Homework

Weekly spellings: These can be found on the school website (under the main heading Curriculum and Assessment and drop down to English) and the children will be tested every Friday.

Daily reading: We ask that all children read for 20-30 mins daily. This will have a huge impact on their learning across the curriculum. Please encourage your child to read a variety of genres and include non-fiction texts. Reading with your child, or asking comprehension questions on the texts they have read is also another good way to boost their skills.

Times Tables Rock Stars: Set weekly and it runs from Saturday to Friday. Everyone has 10 sessions on Garage to complete (but please feel free to encourage your child to do more if they want to!). That is 10 minutes a week, 2 minutes a day if you only do week days- so totally achievable!

Topic Project: As part of our Ancient Greece topic, we would like the children to design and create a Greek Temple. You can be as creative as you wish (pictures, 3D sculptures, temples created on Minecraft)! **Please bring in your projects week beginning 13th December.**

What else will be happening in the Curriculum?

RE

During our RE lessons this term, we will be focussing on Islam: Ramadan and the Hajj

PSHE

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at Being a Citizen and Cultural Differences.

Art

In Art, we will be drawing from the master, Leonardo.

Music

The music lessons will involve developing the children's knowledge of pitch, using the huge variety of pitched percussion in the music room. They will be practicing their reading from graphic scores and standard notation, and will incorporate layering of sounds (musical texture) in a group setting.

Spanish

Autumn 1: We will be learning numbers to 100 and money

Autumn 2: The planets

Science

Our Science topic is Earth and Space. This includes describing the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun in the Solar System. We will also investigate the movement of the moon relative to the Earth; describe the sun, using the Earth's rotation to explain day and night.

Computing

Our IT sessions will cover E-Safety and using presentations.

How to help your child

- Every week your child will be sent home spellings. It is important that you learn these with your child as they will be tested on Fridays.
- It is important that you read with your child daily, asking them comprehension questions to further develop their understanding of the characters or plot. It is also a great idea to point out exciting vocabulary or phrases and create a word bank so they can use this within their own writing.
- Please access Times Tables Rock Stars and complete the challenges set. Each child has been encouraged to complete 10 rounds on Studio before moving on to Garage or Arena.
- Additionally, could you encourage your child to drink and use the toilets during their break times to minimise missing vital lesson time. However, we do allow them to leave the classroom to use the bathroom if required.

Educational Visits in Year 5 this term

We have booked trips to the Royal Observatory and to Lewisham Islamic Centre. We have also organised a Design and Technology Workshop where the children will be making Orreries. There will also be an author visit and a Greek food tasting session too!