

09.01.17

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the Spring Term. We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and we hope that the following information proves useful to you, however please feel free to come and discuss with us any other questions you may have.

Curriculum:

We will be continuing to work with children from other year groups, primarily Year 6, which will help the children share ideas and extend their learning collaboratively.

Our topic this term is 'The Ancient Greeks'. We will be learning about the life and empire of the Greeks between the years 776 – 146BC, by completing many hands on and practical investigations and projects. We are particularly excited about this topic and the children will be responsible for choosing some of their own learning from an exciting range of activities and tasks linked with the topic. We will be teaching this topic through a variety of workshop style sessions, where children will work with teachers, in groups and independently to develop a range of skills and abilities.



'Ancient Greeks' Topic Overview:

Art – Sketching Greek Artefacts/Sculpting techniques to create Greek Mythology masks and clay pots
D&T – CAD/CAM (Computer aided design and manufacturing), Cutting techniques to construct a 3D model of a Greek temple

History – Sparta vs Athens, democracy, contrasts between rich and poor, sequencing historical events, Alexander the Great and the impact of this civilization on the world today (language, buildings, culture etc).

Geography – Map Work (City States in Ancient Greece) and the expansion of the Greek Empire

Computing – Comparing and evaluating websites/digital content, coding – scratch quizzes/games



Science – Properties and Materials

This term our science topics are 'properties' and 'materials'. Linked to our F.I.N.D Erasmus project, the pupils will be working on a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) questions that they will generate and investigate. We will be using our new 'Future Classroom Lab' to enhance this work and to enable the pupils to develop their skills.

Playtime:

In Key Stage 2 we are keen that children think carefully about making healthy choices for their playtime snacks. Please can children in Key Stage 2 bring in a fruit snack for playtimes rather than eating alternative snacks. Children should also remember to bring in a **water** bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can all children make sure that they **name** their water bottle and remember to take their water bottles home at the end of the day, thank you. Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottle, thank you.

We do ask that children **do not** bring nuts into school for break or lunchtime as we have a number of children who have nut allergies and as such, we are a nut free school.

Parent Helpers:

At Howes we recognise the valuable contribution that all members of our community make to our school. We are always happy to welcome helpers into the classroom, so if you would like to volunteer to help in any way please speak to Mrs Bolland. Here are some of the ways you may like to offer support:

- By joining the Friends of Howes team
- By hearing children read
- By supporting us on school trips
- By helping to organise Accelerated Reader or other resources



Behaviour Expectations

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. We will continue to follow our “Golden Rules” to ensure that there are clear expectations for pupils at Howes. We would very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these values with your children.

To encourage pupils to make the right choices, we will be having ‘Power Hour’ at the end of the term to reward children for their good behaviour, however pupils who have broken the Howes “Golden Rules” during the week will miss some or all of the time from this session. Alternatively, in some circumstances they may be asked to spend time reflecting on their behaviour during playtime or lunchtime.

Celebration Assemblies

Our Friday Celebration Assemblies will be continuing this term at 9.00am. Two children from each class will be nominated to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

PE Kits and Uniform:

This term Year 5 pupils will have PE lessons on a Monday afternoon with Commando Joe and on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has a **clearly named** PE kit which should consist of a T-shirt, shorts and pumps; they should also bring suitable kit for outdoor lessons. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation. Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons, thank you.

Please also ensure that your child attends school wearing the correct school uniform. For information about this please visit: <http://howesprimary.co.uk/Uniform/>

Children with long hair should also come to school with their hair tied back please.

Please can we remind you that children who wear earrings should only wear studs or sleepers, thank you.

Please can we remind you that nail varnish should not be worn at school, thank you.

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:

At Howes we ask the children to wear a pair of outdoor shoes to and from school and whilst outside at playtime/lunchtime as this enables them to make the most of the school grounds during the wetter weather. Once they arrive at school we ask the children to change into indoor shoes. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named indoor shoes to keep at school, such as slippers, school shoes or pumps. Thank you.

Homework:

We ask you to encourage your child to complete and return their homework on time each week. Please ensure that you sign your child's home school diary at home each week.

Accelerated Reader – Children in Key Stage 2 will have the opportunity to read for 30 minutes in school on most days. An important part of the Accelerated Reading (AR) programme is that children read for a sustained period on a daily basis. Children should aim to spend at least 30 minutes **each day** reading their books as part of their homework.

Maths – Pupils will be receiving math homework weekly during the term. It will normally be designed to build on the topics they are working on that week or to introduce new subjects in preparation for lessons to come. We will go through the answers every week in class.

English – Pupils will be given either a 'SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) activity to complete or a task that will be based around the current English topic they are studying. In addition to this, every Tuesday your child will be given a set of spellings to learn and will be tested on them the following Tuesday.

Topic – Children may be asked to complete extra tasks as part of our current topic.

Absences and Medical Needs:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be named and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

Timings of the day:

Attendance at Howes is improving, however this term we need to work together to maintain and further improve this. It is essential that all pupils arrive promptly in order to start the school day at 8.55am. So that children are ready to come into school at this time, we would ask that all children are present on the playground at least 5 minutes before the school bell sounds.

The end of the school day for pupils in Key Stage 2 is at 3.20pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes later than Key Stage 1 pupils.

Important Events for Year 5 Pupils:

Wednesday 15 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 17 th February	Last day of half term
20 th – 24 th February	Half Term
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
1 st – 7 th April	F.I.N.D Project Meeting in Greece
Friday 7 th April	End of Spring Term – Break up for Easter Holiday

We are looking forward to continuing to working with you and your children this term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watson
Mr Edden

