



Together we can!

# Beechwood JUNIOR SCHOOL

# Autumn Term



# YEAR 4

4J – Mrs James (Year leader)

4K – Mr Kay

4W – Miss Williams

Mr Fincham is the Year 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Trayhorn is the Year 4 Teaching Assistant.

Dear parents,

Firstly, I would like to welcome you and your children to Year 4! I hope you all managed to keep safe and well and had a fantastic summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back and starting the children's journey into year 4 in what we hope to be a much more normal academic year! Myself and the team are really looking forward to sharing all of the amazing learning experiences we have planned for this term.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, we have our topic launch day which is linked to our first topic – The Ancient Greeks! On this day, the children can come into school dressed as an Ancient Greek and will take part in workshops led by expert visitors to encourage a love of learning for our topic. We will be investigating the impact of Ancient Greece on how we live today through our writing, reading and history work with an aim to answer the question - 'What did the Greeks do for us?' This term of exciting history work is building up to our final outcome where the children will answer our big question. More details to follow soon.

The aim of this booklet is to keep you informed about upcoming events, trips and important dates in Year 4 and to help you plan your diary / know of any upcoming costs. We will always aim to send out any changes and reminders on Marvellous Me or MCAS as well. All plans we have are, however, subject to the national roadmap out of COVID going to plan. We will endeavor to give you as much notice as we can in the event of any changes.

If you have any questions or queries or suggestions at any time, the email of your child's teacher is below.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and really hope you will be able to join us for some of our events in the not too distant future. We thank you for your continued support.

Mrs James, Year 4 leader



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Mr Fincham



Mrs Trayhorn

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM**

### **Autumn 1**

2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	INSET DAYS
6 <sup>th</sup> September	First day back to school
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Applications due in for House Captains (Y6) and Sports Captains (Y5)
13 <sup>th</sup> September	House and Sports Captains interview week
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Ancient Greek Topic Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Election Day for House and Sports Captains
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Reading Ranger Launch Day
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
24 <sup>th</sup> September	School Council (all years) applications due in
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Open week (booking info to follow)
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual photos
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Maths Sheriff Launch Day!
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Assembly (more info to follow)
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween Disco (after school until 4:30pm)
25-29 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term

### **Autumn 2**

10 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher consultations
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-school uniform day
29 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET DAY
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Health and Wellbeing Week for the children
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Christmas Performance (more info to follow)
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle service for children in school
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Lower School Concert 2pm
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch (booking info to follow)
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Upper School Concert 9am
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco (after school until 4:30pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day before the Christmas break! Christmas Jumper Day and Class Parties

**We re-open after the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

## **REMINDERS:**

### **School uniform:**

- Grey or black trousers or skirts
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Red cardigan, jumper or fleece
- Red and white gingham summer dress
- Black or grey smart summer shorts
- Sensible shoes or trainers in a plain dark colour

Children should not be wearing jewellery into school except stud earrings and a watch. Jewellery worn for religious reasons is of course an exception. Make-up and nail varnish should also not be worn during the school day.

### **PE:**

PE is part of the National Curriculum and it is very important that your child takes part regularly. If you do wish them to not take part, you must send an email to your child's teacher clearly stating the reason why you wish them to miss their PE or Games lesson. If we do not have an email, they will be expected to take part.

### **PE kit (children should wear this to school on the days they have PE):**

- Plain coloured t-shirt which can be their house colour but we do not allow any football shirts or t-shirts with large logos (except the Beechwood logo)
- Plain black or grey jogging bottoms or shorts
- Trainers or plimsolls
- School jumpers should be worn over PE tops on colder days – no branded tops or hoodies

**Outdoor PE** for this term is Hockey and Football and is on a Thursday.

**Indoor PE** Instead of weekly indoor lessons, each class will spend an entire day performing a Dance routine. This will take place weeks commencing 4<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November. More information will be sent nearer to the time.

## MCAS (My child at school)

MCAS is the school's new online messaging and payment system. You will need an online code so that you can set up a MCAS account and then you can access your account via a free app on your phone or tablet. You can also access it via a computer if you prefer:

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>



You will be able to use your MCAS account to pay for dinners, Breakfast and After School Club, music lessons, trips and residential visits. All letters, information and messages will be sent out directly to your MCAS account so all your letters will be in one place. You will also be able to view your child's attendance and your contact details to make sure that they are kept up to date.

**Please be aware that we will be sending all letters and reminders this way** to ensure that they do not get lost on the way home. We do not send paper copies of letters in an effort to reduce our impact on the environment. Because of this, it is vital that you have access to MCAS, otherwise you will miss important information.

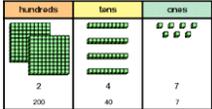
## Marvellous Me

Marvellous Me is a free app which can be downloaded onto smartphones and tablets, or on a computer via the Marvellous Me website, using the parent login ([www.parent.marvellousme.com](http://www.parent.marvellousme.com)). You will need an email address and an individual code for your child to login initially. If you change your phone or lose the code, you can always request a new one from your child's teacher.



Once the app is set up, you will receive notifications when your child's teacher awards a badge to your child; or lets you know about what they have been learning.

If you have any problems and would like to speak to any of us, please email us or phone the school on 023 80 227692 and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

SUBJECT	WHAT WE WILL BE STUDYING IN AUTUMN 1:
<b>History</b>	<p><b>Ancient Greece: What did the Greeks do for us?</b></p> <p>We will be exploring this topic by using the acronym PLASTIK which stands for politics, language, architecture, sport, theatre, ideas and beliefs and knowledge. To do this we will be focusing on some of the famous Greeks that had an impact on each area. The children will use this learning to decide which aspect of Greek history has had the most impact on us today.</p> 
<b>WRITING</b>	<p>Writing a diary entry in character using a variety of sentence types.</p> <p>Writing an exciting Greek Myth by selecting vocabulary to develop atmosphere and characters.</p> <p>Writing poetry that contains rich and varied vocabulary.</p> 
<b>READING</b>	<p>Understanding new and unfamiliar words</p> <p>Retrieving and recording information</p> 
<b>MATHS</b>	<p><b>Number:</b></p> <p>Identifying the place value of each digit in a 4-digit number</p> <p>Read, write, compare and order numbers up to 10,000</p> <p>Partitioning numbers and estimation</p> <p>Finding 1000 more or less than a number</p> <p>Convert tenths and hundredths into decimals</p> <p><b>Fractions:</b></p> <p>Compare and Order</p> <p>Common equivalent fractions and decimals</p> 
<b>STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)</b>	<p><b>Sound:</b></p> <p>Focusing on how different sounds are made and how sounds travel to our ears.</p> <p>Selecting and using tools for cutting and joining.</p> <p>STEM outcome: create a toy with a squeaker inside</p> 
<b>COMPUTING</b>	<p>STEM Link – creating a scratch game using switches.</p>
<b>ART and DESIGN</b>	<p>Textiles – sewing to create a squeaky dog toy.</p>
<b>PE</b>	<p>Creating a Greek warrior dance focusing on using large, powerful movements.</p>
<b>OUTDOOR PE</b>	<p>Football and Hockey focusing on controlling the ball, passing and defending.</p> 
<b>RE</b>	<p>Concept: Myths (with a focus on Hinduism)</p>
<b>FRENCH</b>	<p>Moi – Facts about me</p> 
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>My relationship with myself - taking care of my mental wellbeing</p> <p>Relationships with others – friendships</p> 

SUBJECT	WHAT WE WILL BE STUDYING IN AUTUMN 2:	
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Ancient Greece: What did the Greeks do for us?</b> We continue exploring this topic by using the acronym PLASTIK and the children will make their decision in order to answer the topic question. 	
<b>WRITING</b>	Creating our own Trip Advisor style reviews for Ancient Greek events and sites showing bias through our vocabulary. Writing a persuasive speech to convince our audience which is the greatest Greek legacy. 	
<b>READING</b>	Retrieve and record information Summarizing key ideas from more than one paragraph	
<b>MATHS</b>	<b>Number:</b> Counting forwards and backwards through zero Rounding mentally to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 Using place value knowledge to answer addition questions How to add whole numbers and 1 decimal place using column addition.  <b>Fractions:</b> Percentages – what they are and how to express common fractions and decimals as a percentage Mixed numbers and where they sit on a number line Converting mixed number to proper fractions Roman numerals	
<b>STEM</b> (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	<b>Electricity:</b> Creating and exploring simple circuits by creating conductors, insulators and switches STEM outcome: Create a scratch game using switches 	
<b>COMPUTING</b>	Debug, code and fix algorithms Responding to hurtful behavior and identifying risks online. What is confidentiality?	
<b>PE</b>	Dance focusing on following a rhythm in a simple repetitive routine and create additional movements to teach others. 	
<b>OUTDOOR PE</b>	Tag Rugby 	
<b>RE</b>	Concept: Temptation (with a focus on Christianity)	
<b>MUSIC</b>	Sing with accurate pitch and using expression. Play tuned and untuned percussion	
<b>PSHE</b>	Respecting differences and similarities; responding to hurtful behavior; discussing differences sensitively and respectfully.	

## TOPIC HOMEWORK

DUE IN: WB 06<sup>th</sup> December.

# Ancient Greek Museum

Our topic this term is Ancient Greece and we are going to answer the question – “What did the Greeks do for us?”

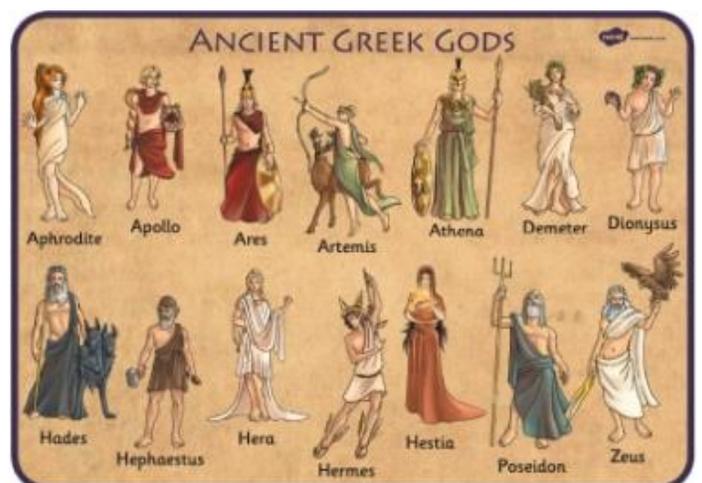
To assist with answering this question, this term’s topic homework is to create a piece of work or an artefact that could be displayed in a museum.

Your creation could be focused around: buildings and architecture, the Olympics, Gods and Goddesses or any other area you are interested in. How you decide to present your work is up to you but you could choose from:

- A poster
- A PowerPoint
- A leaflet
- A video
- A model
- A piece of artwork



We cannot wait to see what you create!





# Reading

We know that being a reader who is fluent, confident and can understand what they have read is a key life skill. We want to encourage children to read as much as possible! At school, at home, on the bus, on the sofa, in a tent...wherever they can! Children who read often and at the correct level for them grow in confidence and learn to love reading and the possibilities it brings. This year, we have introduced a new approach to reading and home school reading in particular.

## Our new reading system: *Book to learn, Book to love* and your child's reading folder

### Book to Learn

After an initial assessment, each child across the school will be given a book to help them learn. This book will be an Oxford Reading Tree book, which are colour banded for different stages. The idea for these books is to help children practice reading; to read fluently with few mistakes – this allows children to practice expression, punctuation and comprehension. This means they might not be as challenging as you might expect. We give the children a range of challenging texts at school and their book to love can be any book of their choice, including something which is challenging.



The book to learn should be **brought in everyday** as it will be needed in school when children do STAR (Sit Together and Read) sessions. To make sure the children really practice their reading, we would like these books to be read **twice before changing** them.



### Book to Love

This book is any book the child chooses. It can be a book such as one from the school library, a book from home or from your local library. This might be a challenging book and this might be a book you share together or read to them. It is something that can spark their love of reading and they are encouraged to read this as much as they want for pleasure.

### Your child's reading folder

Your child will be given a named folder to keep their books in. **This folder will need to come in everyday** as we will be using the books in school and offering children time to read both books. Inside this folder they should have:

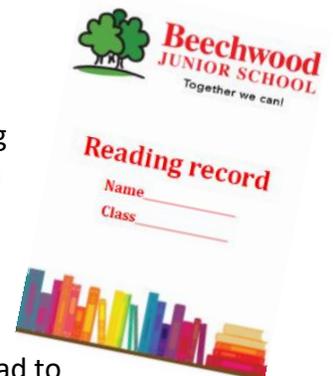
- The Book to Learn
- The Book to Love
- The Reading Record Booklet

### Beechwood Reading Scheme – Reading Rangers

To encourage the children to read their Book to Learn, we have set up a home school reading scheme. Each week, if your child reads at home four or more times for ten minutes from their Book to Learn, they will be given a raffle ticket for a grand prize draw at the end of each half term!!!

On top of this, on a weekly basis, the class in the school with the highest number of children who read four or more times, will be given a prize!

An adult at home will need to sign the home school reading record each time a child has read to them for ten or more minutes. This will then be checked each week by the school.



# Maths Sheriff

At Beechwood Junior School, we recognise how important basic number knowledge is not only for academic achievements but also as a life skill. Therefore, over a number of years we have introduced our Maths Sheriff challenge books. Through regular practise both within school and with adults at home, children will master the necessary skills and will be able to utilise them. Upon proving their knowledge, your child will be given a pin badge which they can keep and wear with pride.



We do not want the children to rush through these badges, it should be something they aim for across the school year. There are currently 5 badges - bronze, silver, gold, glittery green and glittery blue. Each badge has its own set of skills to work on. Bronze focuses on the Year 3 curriculum skills, silver on the Year 4 curriculum skills and gold the Year 5 and 6 curriculum skills. The glittery green badge is about becoming a Maths Sheriff coach and supporting other children and the glittery blue badge is a problem solving puzzle book that gets the children to think in different ways. Testing takes place in school at break times and lunchtimes and there are also dedicated Maths Sheriff after school clubs.



To support Beechwood's Maths Sheriff we also use the online times table programme Times Tables Rock Stars. Each child has their own secure log in which allows them to practise their times table skills that they need to work on while having fun and earning points and coins for the Times Table Rock Stars shop. All children will have a Times Table Rock Stars session in school approximately once a fortnight where they will be able to play against the class (and sometimes the teacher). There will also be challenges set up for the children to do at home by their teacher as well.

If you have any questions about Maths Sheriff or Times Tables Rock Stars, please get in contact with your child's class teacher or Mrs Furby (Maths Leader).