

Friday 16th September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We are delighted and excited to be working in Holly Class this year, and have already been impressed with the children's attitude to learning.

This term we shall be encouraging every child to become more independent in their learning.

Our topic this term is 'Ancient Greece', which ties in perfectly with the Olympics. We will be studying maps and timelines, as well as learning the differences between the states of Athens and Sparta. We shall study Greek Myths and Legends and write some of our own, and become familiar with the work of Homer (*The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*). We will study diary writing and report writing – newspapers. In maths we will continue to consolidate previous learning, as well as moving towards more formal written methods of calculations. It is especially important to secure children's understanding and recall of times tables facts over the year, please continue to support them with this.

We will discuss the term 'Democracy' in PSHE, and consider how we see this in action today. Our Science topic is 'Electricity and magnets' and we will experiment with circuits and switches, consider insulators and conductors, and see how magnets can attract and repel. In Art, we will explore pattern and colour mixing, and make Greek thumb pots from clay. After half term, DT will replace Art, and we will design and make pop-up books, which will be supported by our Computing curriculum: combining text and images. RE focuses on Judaism and then the story of Christmas.

P.E is taught on a Monday afternoon (Gymnastics and Dance), and Friday afternoon (Handball and Outdoor and Adventurous Activities). Please ensure your child has the correct, full PE kit on these days, especially when the weather turns colder.

Spellings will go home on a Thursday once in operation, and be tested on a Monday. Please encourage your child to read, and continue to read to them. Reading books can be changed on a Thursday. As ever, we would appreciate parental volunteers to listen to readers.

Thank you for your continued support, please feel free to talk to us at any time and we look forward to getting to know your child,

Mrs Turner and Mrs Bradbury