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9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers of Willow Class,

Welcome to the first term of Year 4! It has been a marvellous week getting to know the children and seeing how smoothly and swiftly they have settled into a new class. We begin our year in Willow class exploring life and times in Ancient Greece through a range of sources. We will consider some of the symbols and traditions of the first Olympic games, learning about the gods that oversaw all aspects of life and immersing ourselves in the myths of the time.

Curriculum areas in this term include:

English – we will study some of the best known Greek myths before writing our own dramatic versions. After researching the athletes and events of the Ancient Olympics, we will present our findings in a report.

Maths - we will be concentrating on place value, addition and subtraction using 4-digit numbers. We will regularly practise written calculations to develop confidence in using the compact column method. We will also use one and two lines of symmetry to create rangoli patterns in time for Diwali.

Science – we will develop our skills in planning and conducting fair tests to explore the strength of structures, borrowing architectural elements from Ancient Greece. In addition, we will explore the digestive system, learning the scientific term for each part and its role in digesting food.

R.E. – we begin our exploration of Hinduism; exploring and researching key gods and goddesses, their roles and symbolism. We reflect on the significance of light in festivals and relate this to Diwali.

Art – we will have a week of art inspired by the Ancient world.

PSHCE - we will think about rules - why they are important and who makes them - before comparing democracy in the U.K. today to its origins in Ancient Greece.

French – we will be learning and reciting a poem in French, as well as performing a story called La Sortie de Monsieur Gentil using actions. We will also be developing our skills in using a French-English dictionary and spotting the use of ne and pas in sentences.

Music – we develop skills in music with Miss Hoare.

P.E. lessons are on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Thursday afternoons, we will be developing our yoga techniques for breathing and balance as well as strengthening our core muscles. Linda Goode, our specialist teacher, will be teaching P.E. skills on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure children have appropriate kit for both hot and cold weather and are able to remove earrings as necessary.

Please do see us if you have any queries or concerns and many thanks for your support.

Best wishes, Miss Cottingham