

## Year 6 Newsletter number 1 – Autumn 2014

Welcome back to the new school year! This is an important year as we will be working hard for the SATs in May as well as preparing the children for High School.

Our main topic this half term is the Ancient Greeks. We will be finding out about what it was like to live at that time as well as how the Ancient Greeks have influenced our lives today.

**How you can help:** take a look at these websites

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/Greece.html>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient\\_greeks/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/)

In English, we are reading a classic book – ‘Midnight Fox’ by Betsy Byars – and a lot of different kinds of writing will come from this. We are also going to be working on grammar and spelling rules.

**How you can help:** listen to your child reading, and question them about what they have read. There are some suggestions for questions to ask printed inside the cover of their weekly planner.

In Maths, we will be looking at lots of different aspects of numbers, such as rounding, negative numbers and decimals, as well as basic calculation methods, properties of shape and data handling.

**How you can help:** practise multiplication tables with your child. Ask them to show you the tables grid they have brought home and explain to you how to use it. Tables are so important and will help them with so many other areas of maths during the year. Take a look at this website for lots of fun, interactive games your child can play:

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

Our class assembly will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 9:10am. We do hope that you will be able to join us.

Our PE days are Monday and Friday. On Wednesdays, those children who have not yet passed their National Curriculum swimming certificate will be going swimming at Greshams. Your child should have received a letter about this already if they are going swimming. Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school, all clearly marked with their name. This should include a T-shirt, shorts, plimsolls or trainers for inside PE and trainers or Astros for outside PE. A tracksuit might also be useful when it is cold. If your child cannot easily deal with their earrings, it would be better not to wear them on PE days.

Homework is an important part of your child’s school day and will be given out each Wednesday, to be returned by the following Monday. Homework will include daily reading of at least 15 minutes (this could be to themselves, to you or a mix of the two), practising a times table, a maths activity (including MyMaths) based on work covered in class during the week and an English activity. There may be lists of spellings to learn and topic-based research too. Mrs Turner will be running a homework club after school on Wednesdays as well as during Assembly time on Thursday and Friday each week, should your child wish to attend. Missed homework will be made up in your child’s playtimes. We appreciate your support in helping your child to do their homework. Your child will be bringing home a maths revision guide and a dictionary/thesaurus to help with homework activities. These books are on loan and must be returned at the end of the year.

We shall be going on a residential trip to Derbyshire again in the summer term. Please come in and look at the photographs from last year’s trip, which are on display in the Junior corridor to give you a taste of the kind of activities that your child could experience.

If your child would like a school meal, please can they bring their dinner money in a clearly named purse or envelope. This could be done either at the beginning of the week, or on the day that your child would like a lunch. If you are paying for more than one day, it is helpful for you to let us know which days your child would like lunches. In order to build your child’s sense of responsibility, they should place this money in the classroom basket in the morning. If you need change, this will be returned in your child’s purse or envelope at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Diary dates** – Greek Day in school – 6<sup>th</sup> October, Crucial Crew (covering all aspects of personal safety) – 20<sup>th</sup> October, Greshams Prep School; trip to Odeon cinema, Norwich – 18<sup>th</sup> November.

If you have any concerns, please come in and talk to me. I hope we will have a successful and happy year working together.

Mrs Kurtz