



# HIGHGATE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Autumn 1 Year 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your families have all had a very enjoyable summer break. We are excited to begin our first year 4 topic, Masks and Minotaurs, which is all about Ancient Greece; and we are looking forward to sharing this with you during our assemblies later this half term.

#### Curriculum

Our first topic focuses on the way in which Ancient Greek society has shaped our own – through stories from Greek mythology, the theatre, architecture, politics, philosophy, the Ancient Greek language, science and maths. We began by listening to the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, crawling through a labyrinth (while being terrorised by a mythical creature), creating our own mazes and designing our own Greek pots. The classroom displays look wonderful!

The Ancient Greek theme continues across the curriculum. In English we will read several Ancient Greek myths, understand their key features and invent our own mythological creatures, before writing myths of our own. In geography we will locate Greece on European and world maps, then start to understand its human geography and how the country has changed since ancient times. In PSHE we will discuss democracy, and in cookery we will make spanakopita filo triangles which will hopefully be delicious!

In maths the children will be looking at place value and rounding numbers up to 10,000, before moving on to addition and subtraction. We will also be working on times tables, which the children need to get a secure grip on during Year 4, before the national Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term. It is important that your children practice every day.

#### Reading

We have 18 exciting Reading Adventure books on the year 4 book list, which offer different genres and different levels of difficulty. Every day we will devote time to silent reading; and we hope that, by the end of Year 4, your children will have read all or most of them.

Please do also continue to read with your children at home, daily, for at least 20 minutes. There is no greater way of supporting them than sharing a book together. As well as listening to your child read aloud, please talk about the characters, their personalities, the dilemmas they resolve, and any new and interesting words. If you would like to find more books for your child, do try the Books for Topics website – it has great suggestions for both novels and non-fiction:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/year-4/>  
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/topics/history/ancient-greece/>



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### **Whole Class Instrument Tuition**

Your child will start learning the guitar (4DC) or the violin (4JS) in the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September. They will be taught by specialist teachers from Haringey Music Department and your child will receive an instrument on loan on which they can practice. Please send violins back in to school every Tuesday (4JS) and guitars every Wednesday (4DC).

### **British Museum trip**

On Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we will be visiting the British Museum to look at the Ancient Greek collections. A separate letter will follow with all the details.

### **PE**

In P.E. this term the children will be playing basketball, as well as swimming. Please ensure they have appropriate clothing, particularly shoes, on P.E. days. We will be doing P.E. outside even if the weather is a bit wet, so it is always a good idea to send them in with a waterproof top layer (also for break times).

PE will be on **Fridays** and swimming on **Wednesdays** for both Year 4 classes.

### **Swimming**

This week, the children will begin their swimming lessons. Every Wednesday children will need to bring their own towel, goggles, and *fitted* suits (no board shorts) to school. On-time arrival (8:55 for 9am departure) is essential. Latecomers will have to miss their swimming lesson.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set on Google Classroom each Friday. Your child should use their Google Classroom log-in from last year, and they will find they have been invited to join their new class. Homework should be submitted to Google Classroom on or before the following Wednesday. Much of your child's maths homework will be set on the MyMaths website. The children will be provided with homework books to keep at home. These will have all the logins needed for this year stuck inside the front cover.





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## Key Dates

Date	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Trip to British Museum
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am	4JS Class assembly
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual class photos
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am	4DC Class assembly
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	PSA Laser show
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Years 4-6 Harvest festival
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term begins 3.30pm

With best wishes,

**Jen, David and the Year 4 Team**



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