



P.P.S. Elm Class

September 2017
Autumn Term

Dahlicious Dahl / Groovy Greeks

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the autumn term. We hope you had an exciting summer break and are ready for your child's new learning experiences this term. We are very lucky to start the term by looking at a fantastic author; Roald Dahl. We will then move on in the second half of the term, with a historical twist looking at the Ancient Greeks.

In **Science** we will be acquiring an understanding of forces, particularly gravity and manmade forces. We will focus particularly on how objects fall to earth, identifying the effect of air, water resistance and friction. We will also investigate mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears. We will then look at the Earth, Sun and Moon, describing the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the Solar System; also how the Earth's rotation explains day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

Our **PE** lessons will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Although for the first half of the autumn term the pupils will have Forest schools on Thursday, so they need to make sure they have the correct kit, including long trousers, long sleeved tops and suitable footwear. In PE will be taking part in dance focussing on using a range of movement patterns, considering height, movement and audience. They will also take part in competitive invasions games, such as tag rugby and football.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.

Computing lessons will give children the opportunity to develop their own Scratch games, focussing on coding and debugging algorithms. We will also start the term by looking at internet security and how this affects everyone. We will also discuss how they can keep themselves safe online.

Throughout the first half of term we will be investigating Roald Dahl through locating where in the world he has lived, uncovering his time working in Africa as well as immersing ourselves in his life as a fighter pilot. Our **History** focus for the second half of the term will be the Ancient Greeks. The children will look at how the Greeks have influenced life today through; The Olympics, education and philosophical ideas.

Art lessons will focus on the amazing work of Quentin Blake and his relationship with Roald Dahl. They will have the opportunity to use their own medium to create a sketch inspired by Blake's eclectic art work. This will be achieved by observation and sketching of his work, before coming up with their own character.

In **Design and Technology** we will put our engineering knowledge to the test and create our own Greek myth inspired monsters. The pupils will test out other mechanisms before deciding on the one which will work most effectively. They will then choose materials and tools, before challenging their peers to test their monstrous creations.

Our **RE** lessons will look at the idea of creation and fall. The children will have the opportunity to debate conflicting and complementary ideas about these events and create their own balanced argument. Then the children will investigate was Jesus the Messiah? The children will explore the meaning of messiah, identify Gospel and prophecy texts, using technical terms and comment on how the



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idea that Jesus is the Messiah makes sense in the wider story of the Bible.

This term the children will be learning how to play the clarinet as part partnership with West Sussex Music Trust.

During **French** the children will learn names of food and drinks related to packed lunches and breakfast and how to talk about what they have eaten / drunk the previous day. They will also read and understand a familiar story in French.

Of course, **English** and **Maths** will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. If you would like any additional information about this term's learning please do not hesitate to ask us.

As a school we are continuing our focus on reading and we are inviting parents in to school for a reading showcase. This is designed to give parents ideas about how to support their children's reading at home and to provide an opportunity to see how reading skills progress over different year groups.

There will also be an opportunity to attend a maths calculation workshop in the second half of the autumn term, focussed on fluency, problem solving, reasoning and the four operations.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be tested through our five minute challenge on a Monday and Wednesday and spellings will be tested on a Tuesday.

Homework will continue to be set weekly with a renewed focus on using Lexia and Mathletics at home,

to support your child's learning.

We are really looking forward to working with year 5 this year and know it will be an exciting, challenging and fun-filled year. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to us please feel free to catch us at the school gate or make an appointment at the office.

We look forward to working with you and your children.

Flora Mckechnie and Laura Sandon-Webb

Key dates for you diary

Bombing of the boys school memorial- Friday 29th September

Parents Evening 2nd October and 4th October

Forest schools 14th September to the 12th October (every Thursday).

Trip to the British Museum—8th November

INSET day 20th October

School photographs 3rd November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-day	Thursday	Friday
	Home-work due in	Home-work set		
Timeta-bles test		Timeta-bles test		
	Spelling test			
	PE	PE	Forest Schools	