

# GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to another new school year! We are really excited to be working with your children and we hope that the class benefit from having 2 teachers. Having returned from maternity leave last year, Angela will be continuing to work 3 days a week (Monday-Wednesday) and Darcy will work on a Thursday and Friday. We hope that this transition between the two of us is smooth but please do let us know if there are any issues.

The best time to chat to either of us is at the end of the day (mornings are very busy) or you can e-mail: [angela@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:angela@gillespie.islington.sch.uk) We will have the continuity of Sue as our TA who will be able to pass on anything that might come up in class on the days we're not in.

Year 4's topic this term is Ancient Greece, which will be incorporated into all areas of the curriculum.

In **English** we will start off the term reading some Greek Myths, exploring the common features of myths and learning about the various types of character. Children will have an opportunity to develop their descriptive writing skills by focusing on different heroes, gods and monsters and create their own Ancient Greek settings. Later in the term we will move onto plays, newspaper reports and travel brochures.

Children in Year 4 are expected to be **Reading** each day at home, and Reading Records should have gone home already. It would be highly valuable if you are able to read with your child regularly and fill in the reading record. Children need to have their reading records at school **each day** and they will be looked at throughout the week. We will be doing whole class reading (like they did in Year 3 with Lauren) but we will keep the reading records up to date with what we are focusing on each week.

In **Maths** we will begin with Number and Place Value up to and including four digit numbers, moving onto using these numbers in addition and subtraction, as well as measuring length, mass and volume. This is the first year that Year 4 will have a times tables assessment at the end of the year. We will be working on consolidating our times table facts, with the aim of knowing all tables up to and including 12x12, and being able to use these facts to solve harder problems. Your support is appreciated in encouraging and helping your child practice their times tables at home – particularly those harder ones - 7s, 8s and 9s. Maths homework for the Autumn term will focus on times tables.

In **Science** we will cover two units of work; States of Matter and Sound. Lessons will focus on the areas of scientific investigation; Identifying and classifying, Pattern Seeking, Fair Testing, Observing over Time, Research and Exploring. In States of Matter, children will look at solids, liquids and gases and investigate how they can be changed through a variety of processes such as heating and melting. For Sound we will be investigating how sound travels, what allows us to hear and how we can change the pitch and volume of sounds.

For this half term **PE** will be on Mondays and Thursdays. On a Monday children will be focusing on invasion games and netball. Starting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September they will have gymnastics with Rochelle. PE kit should be a plain blue or white t-shirt, a jumper for winter, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms or leggings and trainers.

**Swimming:** We have changed the swimming format for this year and are trialling 2 sets of 2 week intensive blocks. The first 2 weeks of hour long sessions starts on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October (the day after half term) and will continue until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. The children will need a kit with them every day. We will be swimming from 10am-11am at Archway pool. The second set of swimming will be in the Spring term and we will let you know dates in due course.

We will be travelling by bus, and students need to bring a towel, swimming cap and appropriate swimwear. Students are required to remove all watches and jewellery before leaving school.

**Boys** – swimming trunks, please **no** loose shorts

**Girls** – swimming costume, please **no** bikinis

Children may bring goggles with them, but their use will be only when instructed by the swim teacher. They are **not** a requirement.

**History and Geography** will be linked into a range of other curriculum areas through our topic, and will focus on the lives of the Ancient Greeks, the location and what impact they have had on us – such as inventions and events that are still relevant today.

**Music** will be taught by Orlando and this will be on a Friday morning each week. Students will begin learning a string instrument this year!

**Computing** will be a PowerPoint unit focused on Ancient Greek daily life. We will be learning how to incorporate sound, images and slideshow transitions throughout the term.

We will also be learning about e-safety, including developing online safety rules for our class, and learning about how you can't delete something off the internet. Students will also become familiar with coding programs like Purple Mash and Scratch.

**RE** will follow the Islington syllabus, and this term we will be looking at the Believing Strand which incorporates Religious beliefs, teachings, and sources as well as questions about meaning, purpose and truth.

**Maths and English Homework** will be sent home each **Wednesday by Angela** and needs to be **returned on Monday**. Students will receive **spelling** homework from Darcy on a Friday.

We look forward to working with your children,

With our Best Wishes,

Angela and Darcy

