

# Who Let the Gods Out?

## The Big Idea

You are about to enter the world of Ancient Greece, where mythology intertwines with history and the spirit of competition reaches its pinnacle in the form of the Olympic Games. We will journey back in time to unearth the treasures of a fascinating civilisation that laid the foundation for Western culture... where the ethos of athleticism, honour and new learning shaped society... where the wranglings of the gods on Mount Olympus became the plots to the best myths and legends EVER! Let the games begin!



### History

History is at the forefront of our work over the next six weeks. As we look forward to the start of the 33rd Olympiad in Paris, we will travel back on the timeline to 776 BC... Our destination is Ancient Greece, where we will marvel over evidence and treasures to understand how the achievements of this period has influence the western world. The children will interact with primary and secondary sources and learn about significant people and events as well as the humdrum of daily life. The first Olympic Games were full of blood, passion and extraordinary feats of athletic endeavour and were the sporting, social and cultural highlight of the Ancient Greek calendar for almost 12 centuries. We will get amongst the crowds and experience the language, art and culture.

### As language specialists

All year groups will be delving in to a mix of fiction and factual texts as we immerse ourselves in the fascinating world of Ancient Greece. Myths and legends bringing together a knowledge of the immortal residents of Mount Olympus and the Greek heroes on earth will be retold in spoken word, written stories, explanation texts and historical recounts. Well-crafted contemporary books bring the gods to life. Our older children will enjoy 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans whilst others will enjoy the award winning 'Icarus was Ridiculous'. An appreciation of a classical period can also not pass without a nod to the great poets.

### As mathematicians...

Each individual year group will be studying set objectives to complete the year's curriculum. After annual assessments are complete in June, there will be revision of key skills and plenty of outdoor practical problem solving. As we start to consider life in Ancient Greece and the Olympic Games, opportunities to interpret and compare data in charts, graphs and tables will come to the fore. Children will meet their new teachers in July and transition maths lessons will provide a taste of the problem solving and basic arithmetic that is to come... and Captain Connection may yet have one more ancient challenge...

### Ambitious Knowledge connecting us to the past, our present and the future

The Olympic Values promote the importance of being 'faster, higher and stronger'. As society promotes equality, diversity and community, we will compare the values and impact of reaching our individual potential and creating a fair society. With a general election imminent, we will also be exploring the ideas of democracy and comparing our ideas and expectations of government and polling with those of the Ancient Greeks.

### As theologians and thinkers

We are going to meet the world's greatest philosophers and share their thinking. Our Friday debates will enable children to explore, express and formally debate the wisdom of Socrates as they rehearse their skills of oracy.

### As expressive artists

We will be seeing how history and myth are captured in art. With the inspiration of the illustrators, Marcia Williams, and Victoria Topping and the classical touches of geometry in Greek vases and architecture, we will be creating exhibition pieces and pictures .

### As fitness and wellbeing experts

We will be finding inspiration from the Olympic games and working on our track and field skills. This will build up to our own Olympic Games when the whole school comes together for Sports Day.

### As musicians

The songs of heroes and champions are motivating! From Disney epics, film scores and classical masterpieces, the pulse of a score can stir patriotism and pace. Our musicians will be rehearsing for performances on Open Afternoon and some will also be competing and showcasing their talents as we host our own Eurovision Song Contest!

### STEM

The focus in science this half term for most year groups is living thing, humans and life cycles. Year 3 investigate forces and magnets and Year 4 find out how sound is made and how vibrations travel through a medium to the ear. Working scientifically is at the heart of each area. Making predictions, understanding fair testing, plotting results mathematically and drawing conclusions based on observations and prior knowledge are all key components. The Ancient Greeks never shied away from testing theories...from Galen and Hippocrates, to Pythagoras, Archimedes and Hypatia (one of the world's first famous female mathematicians) the Greeks paved the way for innovation and fabulous 'Eureka' moments.

Books that we recommend to support our learning this term

With history and tradition at the centre of our half term topic, here are some super books that we recommend that might support and enhance your child's learning this half term. Be they fact or fiction, they have the history of Ancient Greece (and how that civilisation changed the world) at their heart. As always, if you find or can recommend any titles that fit the theme and would be a great addition to our school library, please let us know.

