

# Year 3 — What We're Learning

*Our theme for the second half term: The Great Greek Rivals: Conflict in Ancient Greece*

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 3 will be exploring **The Great Greek Rivals: Conflict in Ancient Greece** — travelling back almost 3,000 years to find out who the Ancient Greeks were, why Athens and Sparta were such fierce rivals, and how the first democracy, which began in Athens, still shapes Britain today. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

## Our CARE Curriculum

The Great Greek Rivals is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 3, 'Awareness' means understanding how ideas from long ago — like democracy — still shape the way we live today.

## Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading *Little People, BIG DREAMS: Coco Chanel* as a class. Coco grew up in an orphanage, learned to sew there, and refused to give up until she had built her own fashion house. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: making a Greek coil pot or a working trebuchet rarely goes right first time, and real makers, like the potters of Ancient Greece, kept trying and improving until it did.

## History and Science this half term

We're learning about Ancient Greece, and about our skeletons, teeth and digestion:

- When and where the Ancient Greeks lived, and why the city-states of Athens and Sparta were rivals
- The Battles of Marathon and Salamis, the story of Athena, and how Athenian democracy compares with democracy in Britain today
- How our skeleton supports and protects our body, and the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates
- Our different types of teeth and their jobs, and the first part of food's journey through the digestive system

*At home, you could look in a mirror together and spot your incisors, canines and molars — which do you use to bite an apple, and which to chew it?*

## Maths this half term

We're building on our number work:

- Addition and Subtraction — adding and subtracting 1s, 10s and 100s, adding and subtracting 2-digit and 3-digit numbers, and using inverse operations
- Multiplication and Division — multiples of 2, 5 and 10, multiplying and dividing by 3, 4 and 8, and the connections between the 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables

*At home, you could practise the 3, 4 and 8 times tables together, or add up prices when you're out shopping.*

## English this half term

Learning and performing the poem *The Magic of the Brain* by Jenny Joseph, then reading and writing inspired by the Greek adventure story *Leo and the Gorgon's Curse*.

## Music this half term

Ukulele with Mr Dunn (Gateshead Music Service), continuing from last half term.

## RE this half term

Festivals — how do ancient stories influence modern celebrations? Exploring the story of Rama and Sita and how Diwali is celebrated in India and the UK, how Christmas has changed in the UK, and how the winter solstice has been celebrated.

## Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "Would you rather have lived in Athens or Sparta — and why?"
- Ask: "Is it fair that only some people were allowed to vote in Athens?"
- Ask: "What does your skeleton do for you?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Coco Chanel resilient?"
- Try together: spot Ancient Greek legacies around you — the Olympic Games, the marathon and the word 'democracy' all began in Ancient Greece!

## Words you might hear at home

*ancient, civilisation, democracy, legacy, BC, vertebrate, invertebrate, oesophagus, trebuchet, counterweight, coil*

## A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers what bullying is and how to get help, what consent means in friendships, recognising emergencies and knowing how to get help, understanding risk, and feeling proud. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 3. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

## Enrichment

- Our Y3 Ancient Greek Art Gallery — the children's finished Greek coil pots on display (Week 5)
- A trebuchet 'launch-off' — testing the children's model Greek catapults to see which throws furthest (Week 6)

## Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

## Keep in touch

This overview covers the second half of the autumn term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

*Thank you for your continued support.*



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