



# Year 4 Spring 1 Newsletter



## Coming up in Spring 1

### Invasion!



**Do you have to be forceful to get what you want?**

In the first half of the term, Anglo Saxons and Vikings will be invading our theme learning. Our historical timeline begins in 400AD, when the Romans left Britain. We will explore a range of artefacts and deepen our knowledge about the cultural history in Britain. We will become archaeologists as we excavate ancient burial sites (do you know about Sutton Hoo?) and deepen our knowledge about our Viking heritage, the reasons for the Vikings' settlement and their ancient Gods! Through reading Beowulf, we will become even better story-tellers, becoming familiar with this well-known cultural myth. In art, we will research about Anglo-Saxon crafts people and the skills needed to hold a sword handle to inspire us to sculpt our own. 'Being a neighbour' will be our focus in R.E. and in music we will learn how to play the recorder.

**Thank you for your continued support, Year 4 Team**

Our **English learning** will be expanding our knowledge of books by looking at the world of myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally. Our starter is the classic tale of Beowulf. To develop our thinking skills, we will be asking questions to help improve our understanding of a text. We will continue to learn how to draw inferences and justify inferences with evidence from the text by answering tricky questions about characters' feelings, thoughts and actions.

In English writing, we will learn how to use different adverbial starters to improve our sentence structure as well as continue to use conjunctions to explain the cause of something, such as 'due to', 'as', 'if'.

Our **Mathematics learning** will focus on recalling multiplication and division facts for all of the times tables (up to 12 x 12) – trying to recall them in less than 6 seconds! We will use these facts to solve 1 and 2 step multiplication problems. We will continue to use the compact method to solve addition and subtraction problems. Our mathematical cross curricular links will involve us learning about symmetry in 2D shapes (linking to Anglo-Saxon amulets) and measuring the perimeter of shapes (including measuring different Viking settlements).

Our **Personal and Development Learning (SCARF)** unit is: **Keeping Myself Safe**



The Key learning points are:

- responding safely and appropriately to unknown adults, including keeping safe online.
- to consider the effect of online actions on others and know how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- to recognise when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable and managing conflict.
- about personal hygiene, germs (including bacteria) and viruses, and how they are spread and treated.
- that medicines are drugs and safety issues for medicine use.
- the characteristics of a poor diet and the risks of unhealthy eating (including obesity, tooth decay and the impact of alcohol on health).
- stages of identifying and managing risk and asking for help in managing risk.
- that we can be influenced both positively and negatively.

How you can **support your child's learning at home**



#### Reading

Please encourage your child to fill in their weekly reading diaries. It would be great if you can also encourage them to read a wide range of texts to improve their vocabulary and understanding, especially this term as we will be reading stories from other cultures including myths and legends. You can also ask your child questions about the texts they have read, especially where they need to have inferred ('read between the lines') to understand.

#### Writing and Spelling

When your child is writing, ask them to read back what they have written. Encourage them to self-edit any punctuation errors and changes with a purple 'polishing' pen or pencil. To help your child to improve the quality of their writing, encourage them to use exciting adjectives! To help with tricky spellings, ask your child to attempt to spell a word first and then to check it with a dictionary.

As well as our fortnightly spelling tasks, please continue to regularly practise the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words to help your child make good progress with their Year 4 spelling targets.

#### Mathematics

It is important for your child to practise their multiplication facts, up to 12 x 12. You can use a wide variety of strategies to make this fun.

Learning to tell the time is an important life skill so please help your child to develop their time skills by encouraging them to tell the time on digital and analogue clocks.

### Year 4 Messages

Polite reminders:

- please return the Home Learning book and library book/s on Thursdays.
- please ensure that water bottles are brought in (and taken home) daily.

Thank you ☺

### Dates for your Year 4 diary

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January** - Viking Dress-Up Day and Viking Visitor in school

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January** 2:50 to 3:20pm & on

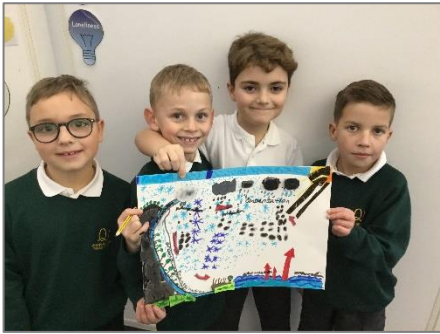
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** 5:30 to 6:00pm

- Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Information Meeting. Please attend one of our meetings.

**Find out more about the wonderful learning we did in Autumn 2 on the next page...**

## Our Learning in Autumn 2

Year 4 dived into the second part of the Autumn Term, immersing ourselves into the wonderful world of water. We learnt about the different stages of the Water Cycle and how essential this process is for our precious planet to thrive.



We studied the Peak District, carefully observing the different terrains and how water accumulates there. We made playdough models of the peaks, and by using a pipette, observed how precipitation (e.g. rain) changed into surface run off (water travelling across land) then accumulated – tricky stuff! Just ask us how we did it. Next, we studied the Cornish coastal town of Boscastle. We learnt about the catastrophic flood of 2004. We discussed the human and physical causes as to why the flood was so significant. We got our hands dirty and had a go at filtering our own dirty water.



Our R.E. journey explored the concept of 'Holy'. We developed our understanding of the significance of Mary to Catholics and Christians. We enjoyed meeting Father Jeremy from Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Peter the Apostle, Waterlooville. Asking him different questions was our favourite part.

As we approached Christmas, we loved being able to practise our singing skills and loved collaborating with the rest of Key Stage Two for the Q1 Christmas Service at the church.

We also very much enjoyed Present Buying Day - organised and set up by our fabulous PTA and really appreciated by the Year 4 learners.

Thank you PTA 😊

