



Coming up in Spring 1

Invasion!



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

This half term, Anglo Saxons and Vikings will be invading our theme learning. Our historical timeline begins around 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 (how much 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 texts inspired by the poem '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 which will inform us about how to sculpt our very own sword hilts – adorned with amber and rubies!

Thank you for your continued support, the Year 4 team

Our **English learning** will be expanding our knowledge of myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally. Our starter is the classic poem of Beowulf followed by the text 'Monster Slayer'. When reading, we will continue to learn how to infer by finding evidence from the text to answer tricky questions about characters' feelings, thoughts and actions. When writing, learners will need to choose whether they want to write from the viewpoint of the great warrior Beowulf himself, King Hrothgar or the Sea Hag as they describe the character of Grendel.

We will 'ADSPICE' to our writing to vary our range of sentence structures. We will add flavour to our writing by focusing on fronted adverbials, personification and metaphors – this figurative language will really help us develop our author voices!

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 also continue to use 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 (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 read daily and complete their weekly reading diaries to build their reading mileage and to improve the skills of evaluating what they need to do next to improve their reading. Phrasing and expression are keen targets!

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, ensuring they are always including capital letters and end stops, which is a Year 2 expectation. ☺

As well as our fortnightly spelling tasks, please continue to regularly practise the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Words with your learner, to help them progress with their personal spelling targets.

Mathematics

It is vital for your child to practise their multiplication facts, up to 12 x 12, at home. You can use a wide variety of strategies to make this fun, and this will ensure they are confident with their learning in maths lessons.

Learning to tell the time is an important life skill so please help your child to develop these skills by encouraging them to tell the time on analogue clocks. Year 4 learners are expected to be able to tell the time to the minute on an analogue clock. ☺

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.
- Please ensure learners bring in a fresh fruit or veg snack for Snack and Story time.

Thank you ☺

Dates for your Year 4 diary

Friday 26th January - Viking Dress-Up Day and Viking Visitor in school

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 enjoyed acting it out, creating art collages and setting up experiments to show condensation on the window, before publishing our own Water Cycle waterfall booklets.



We studied the Peak District, carefully observing the different terrains and how water accumulates there. After acting it out on the school grounds, we then made smaller scale 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. We got our hands dirty and had a go at filtering and treating our own dirty water. This helped us realise how lucky we are to have such clean water coming out our taps!

We collected data about rainfall (using rain gauges) over November and December – luckily, all the wet weather meant we had lots of recording to do!



Our Science learning was all about 'Sound', and we loved exploring how vibrations enable us to hear things! We loved investigating using beads on drums and tuning forks in water, and our favourite part was using the boomwhackers to explore pitch! Ask us what a boomwhacker is and what our class challenges were!



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 the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Peter the Apostle, Waterlooville. We learnt a lot by asking him different questions and seeing his special objects from the church – including real Frankincense!

As we approached Christmas, we loved being able to practise our singing skills and loved collaborating with the rest of Key Stage 2 for the QI Christmas Service at the church. Lots of us were able to create artworks and props for the occasion too! ☺

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 ☺