






Year 4 Parent Newsletter Autumn 1









Dear Parents, Carers and Families,


Welcome to Year 4

We hope you and your child are excited about starting this academic year and that this newsletter gives you an understanding as to what your child will be learning this term. You will also find some useful links or activities that you may want to look at or complete with your child.

Each year group is busily arranging a parent workshop for the Autumn term. Dates regarding these will be shared shortly with you. We hope you can attend! If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak with us.

Area	Theme	
Project: History/ Geography	Invasion In the Invasion project, your child will explore the effects of the Roman withdrawal and the chronology and geography of subsequent invasions. They will study the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in detail, examining their reasons for invading, their settlements and their everyday life. Your child will also look at monasteries and the Anglo-Saxon legacy. They will consider how we know about life in this period and investigate the Sutton Hoo ship burial. They will learn about Athelstan, an Anglo-Saxon king, and what happened after his death, before ending the project by learning about the Norman invasion of 1066.	
English	This half term, children will be studying the features of adventure stories. They will be watching a short video to help identify key features; examining how setting and characterisation are used to develop the reader's engagement and developing a wide range of ambitious vocabulary. Children will also be studying non chronological texts and will produce their own versions based on their study of Anglo Saxons. Grammar and spelling will be integrated into the English lessons. The whole school focus on presentation will continue across the whole curriculum.	
Maths	The focus will be on continuing to develop knowledge and understanding of place value and developing efficient methods of addition and subtraction. They will be applying their developing knowledge and skills in investigative and problem-solving activities.	

Reading	Each day will start with time for children to read for pleasure. We will also be sharing a class text which the class will choose in the first week. In addition, there will be focussed comprehension lessons each day. Your child will shortly be coming home with a reading book. Please support and encourage them to read this at home with you.	
Science	Our topic will be 'In a state': children will be introduced to the concept of states of matter. They will learn the characteristics of solids, liquids and gases through first hand practical experience and secondary sources. They will also learn how to plan fair tests, begin to identify variables and present their data in charts or tables.	
PE	PE will be on a Wednesday. On this day, your child will need to come into school in suitable PE Kit. (see below). Sports are as follows: Year 4 P Gymnastics/Netball H Basketball/Football K Dance/Tag Rugby	
Computing	In computing children will be looking at computer systems, networks and the internet whilst considering what the internet is made of and how information is shared both on networks and the world wide web. Children will then progress to data logging.	
Modern Foreign Languages	This term we will be introducing French into KS2 (Y3-Y6). Children will be learning to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources. Units 1- 6 will include: Rhymes, traditional songs, listening to and reading a story, performing a traditional story in French and expressing an opinion.	
RE/PSHE	Children will focus their learning on their own participation in their communities and the responsibilities this brings. They will investigate and discuss the rules that have to be followed in different environments. We will also continue with our work on E.L.L.I (Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory) skills so that children develop their life skills; resilience, critical curiosity, linking ideas, adapting to change, planning ahead, working together and using imagination.	
Music	Children will be singing together in the classroom, learning a selection of Anglo-Saxon songs that link with their history topic.	
Art/DT	Our project this half term is Fresh Food, Good Food. This project teaches children about food decay and preservation. They discover key inventions in food preservation and packaging, then make examples. The children prepare, package and evaluate a healthy snack. Please ensure that any food allergy information the school holds for your child is up to date along with their allergy medication. Teachers will liaise with parents/carers of	

	children this applies to regarding the ingredients we use. Children will need to bring in a container on the day they make their healthy snack – a take away/ready meal container is the ideal size!	
Suggested reading list	The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan The Monster Spotter's Handbook by Matt Cherry Edie and the box of Flits by Kate Wilkinson Desirable by Frank Cottrell Boyce Varjak Paw by SF Said My Brother is a Superhero by David Solomons The Saga of Erik the Viking by Terry Jones	

Other information

PE Kit

For safety reasons, it is essential your child comes to school in correct and safe PE kit.

Plain T-Shirt

Shorts, tracksuit trousers or leggings

Trainers (not pumps)



Your child may wear a tracksuit/jogging bottoms over their PE kit if they wish.

Supporting your child at home

Read, read, then read some more! Research shows that reading regularly is the best homework you can do. If your child brings a reading book home, please support them to read it. Even better, spend 10 minutes a day reading with them.



Invasion



These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Imagine you are an Anglo-Saxon invader. Write a letter home to your family in Denmark, the Netherlands or Germany. Include details about the journey to England, where you have settled and explain any difficulties you have faced.
2. Use the internet to search for pictures of the artefacts found at the Sutton Hoo burial site, such as The Franks casket, purse lid and shoulder clasp. Create a piece of Anglo-Saxon art using the designs on the artefacts as inspiration.
3. Use the table below and a map of the United Kingdom to identify Anglo-Saxon place names. Explain what you think each place might have been used for or how it got its name. Visit The University of Nottingham – Key to English Place Names website to find out more about the origins of place names.

Anglo-Saxon word	Meaning	Modern suffix	Examples
burh	fortified place	-burgh, -bury	Canterbury, Banbury
denu	valley	-dean	Rottingdean
ham	farm or village	-ham	Clapham, Balham
ingas	son of	-ing	Hastings
leah	a clearing	-ly, -lay, -ley, -leigh	Henley, Bromley
tun	town	-ton	Sutton, Bolton

4. Use a range of historical source materials to research what everyday life was like in Anglo-Saxon or Viking Britain. Areas to research might include clothing, housing, food, culture and religion. Create a non-chronological report, blog or presentation to present your findings.
5. Imagine you are monk at Lindisfarne, who witnessed the Viking attacks on the monastery. Write a soliloquy explaining what you saw and include your thoughts and feelings about the attack. Record your soliloquy to share with the class.



Invasion
Generic Home Learning
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6. Research a significant Anglo-Saxon or Viking figure from the list below and create a fact file or biography about your chosen individual.

Anglo-Saxon	Viking
Alfred the Great	Ivar the Boneless
King Offa	Guthrum
Lady Aethelflaed	Sweyn Forkbeard
Bede	Cnut the Great

7. When Edward the Confessor died, there were three main contenders for the throne: Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada and William, Duke of Normandy. Research each person's claim to the throne and write a paragraph to explain who you think was the rightful successor.
8. Use a range of resources to create a knowledge organiser about the Battle of Hastings. Include details about key dates, people and events and a paragraph to explain why this battle was so significant for England.
9. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about invasion in the early Middle Ages.

Useful websites

BBC Bitesize – Anglo-Saxons
British Museum – The Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo
British Museum – Decoding Anglo-Saxon art
BBC Bitesize – Vikings
CBBC Newsround – What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
The Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans – Settlers and Invaders of Britain	Ben Hubbard and Anita Ganeri	9781474755047
Anglo-Saxons and Vikings – Usborne History of Britain	Hazel Maskell and Abigail Wheatley	9781409556107
I Was There – Viking Invasion	Stuart Hill	9781407197890
I Was There – 1066: The Norman Conquest	Jim Eldridge	9781407197852
Great Events – The Battle of Hastings	Gillian Clements	9781445131597

