

YEAR 5 NEWSLETTER

Driving Question: Did the Vikings deserve to be known as the criminals of Europe?

Scary Saxons and Vicious Vikings

Heroes

Main Subjects: History and Science

Class Novel: Attack of the Vikings – Tony Bradman

This term our focus is history and we will be delving back in time to the world of Saxons and Vikings.

Literacy

We will be writing explanation texts (a piece of writing that explains something to others), as well as comparing Viking and modern warfare and evaluating its effectiveness. After learning 'How to Hide a Pirates treasure', the children will independently apply their knowledge of explanation texts to write about 'How to Launch a Successful Viking Invasion'.

In our Talk4Reading text, Year 5 will be focusing their texts on a non-fiction text about the Vikings. After studying this text, the children will identify all the features of non-fiction texts in order to research and understand how to efficiently find information. We will also be looking at the book 'The Attack of the Vikings' by Tony Bradman. We will link this topic to **SMSC** (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education) learning how to resolve differences and the consequences of anti-social and aggressive behaviour, both in school and the wider community. This will also link to our British Values curriculum where will discuss the importance of *Mutual Respect* and the *Tolerance of other values and beliefs*. Through debating, we will discuss the two time periods and conclude whether Saxon, Viking or modern day life is better. Thinking about modern day life, we will compare jobs today with those that would have been carried out by the Saxons and Vikings. We will use these discoveries to write job descriptions.

At home you could: carry out some independent research to find out more about the Saxons or the Vikings; bring your fact file into school so you can use it to assist your work.

Maths

Pupils will be learning more about multiplication and division, moving on from using resources to formal written methods of column multiplication and division. Later in the term, we will be finding fractions of amounts for example, find $\frac{3}{5}$ of 100. We will teach them to divide by the denominator and multiply by the numerator eg: $100 \div 5 = 20$ and then $20 \times 3 = 60$. Finally, at the end of the term, we will be working with decimals up to thousandths, percentages and equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages.

To support their learning, there are many fun apps and websites you could use at home (please ensure they know all their times tables off by heart):

Hit the button and www.topsmarks.co.uk. Please continue to practice times tables using the PiXL app at home.

To practise your times tables use Times Table Rock Stars: <https://trockstars.com/>

Physical Education

In PE this term, we will be refining their attacking and defending skills that they used in Term 2 in their netball sessions and applying them to the game of hockey. The children will learn how to gain possession by working as a team. Skills learned will be dribbling and moving with the ball in a controlled manner and accurate passing. In gymnastics, children will make up their own movement sequences. There will be particular focus on balance and co-ordination as well as flexibility and agility.

Science

The children will continue to plan and carry out scientific investigations, giving reasons based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the use of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. As a written outcome, children will consider the materials the Vikings used in war and will make link to tools used in the period of time studied. Linked to materials, the children will consider materials which are dissolvable as well as ways in which these soluble substances can be recovered from a solution.

At home you could: do some background reading using this site: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zryycdm>

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 4th January – Start of Term 3
- Friday 18th February – End of Term 3
- Monday 28th INSET Day – School closed to pupils
- Tuesday 1st March – Term 4 Starts

How to Hide a Pirate's Treasure

The Caribbean has many thousands of tiny islands. Some have no one living on them at all. These made useful places for pirates to hide their treasure. The idea was that they would return at a later date to dig it up.

One famous pirate, William Kidd, said that he had buried an enormous treasure of £100,000 worth of gold and gems. Since then, not a stone or coin has been found! How do you think he managed to hide so much so secretly?

If I was asked to bury treasure, I would identify a place where no one could come across it by accident. This would mean finding a place where people did not often go so that no one could stumble across the loot. The sort of place that I would look for would be uninhabited, and also a hostile environment. Deserts, mountain ranges, icy wastes and beneath the sea would all be on my list because they are inaccessible to most people. Desert islands would also be ideal because there would be little chance of anyone discovering the treasure.

Once I had found the right place, I would then need a way of hiding or burying the treasure. It could be placed into a deep hole and covered with something hard like concrete so that it could not be dug up. Or I might hide it in a cave up a mountainside where it was impossible to climb without a lot of equipment.

It might be a good idea to disguise the treasure so that it looked ordinary. For instance, jewels could be covered in clay and be put in an old box so that they looked nothing like jewels at all.

Perhaps the best place to hide something would be below the sea. I would make massive container out of heavy metal and concrete so that it would not move. I would place this in a deep part of the ocean where only a submarine can go. This would make it almost impossible for anyone to discover so the treasure would be safe. In order to recover it, I would ensure that only I had the co-ordinates!

Hiding treasure would be easy enough - if you had enough help and money to keep the secret well-guarded!