

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 stories with a focus on how to advance action to make our writing exciting for the reader. We will also be concentrating particularly on speech punctuation while we are writing our stories. Once we have learnt about Vikings, we will be writing a report to answer the driving question. We will think about how to explore both sides of the argument fairly, before giving our own opinion. 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. Our reading focus will be based around the book 'The Last Viking' by Terry Deary. Our reading focus will be distinguishing between fact and opinion and working out the meanings of words in context.

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 continuing to build their knowledge of fractions. We will be identifying equivalent fractions and learning how to convert mixed fractions into improper fractions and vice versa. For example, $1\frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$. Finally, at the end of the term, we will be working on multiplication and division. We will learning up to multiplying a 4 digit number by a 2 digit number and dividing a 4 digit number by a 1 digit number using short division (the children might know this as the bus stop method).

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

Physical Education

In PE this term, we will be refining their special awareness skills that they used in Term 2 in their netball sessions and applying them to the game of dodgeball. 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. Weekly swimming lessons will continue for some children on a Wednesday morning, with the aim of all children reaching their 25 metre goal. You will be contacted if your child is swimming and needs to bring their kit.

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:

- Monday 8th January – INSET day
- Tuesday 9th January – First day of Term 3 for pupils
- Wednesday 10th January – Film Night 3-4pm
- Friday 9th February – Last Day of Term