

# 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 on history, and we will explore the worlds of the Saxons and Vikings.

### Literacy

We will begin the term by focusing on descriptive writing linked to characters and settings. We will write an explanation text on creating a vicious Viking first impression. Our reading focus will be on The Godless Norsemen Folk (a poem linked to the Lindesfarne attack) and understanding the Viking Honour System. We will distinguish between fact and opinion and work out the meanings of words in context. Our descriptive narrative stories will allow us to practise our dialogue to advance action and make our writing exciting for the reader, concentrating on speech punctuation while writing our stories and developing the use of parentheses with dashes.

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

### Maths

Pupils will be continuing to build their knowledge of fractions from Year 4. 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. Once comfortable with multiplying 2-digit by 2-digit, we will learn to multiply a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number and divide 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, you could use many fun apps and websites at home (please ensure they know all their times tables off by heart): Hit the button and [www.topsmarks.co.uk](http://www.topsmarks.co.uk). To practise your times tables, use Times Table Rock Stars: <https://trockstars.com/>

### Physical Education

In PE this term, we will be refining the pupils spacial 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. Weekly swimming lessons will start for all children on a Wednesday morning, aiming for all children to reach their 25-metre goal. Please refer to the previous letter sent, regarding swimming details. PE kits and swimming kits must be brought each week. PE will be on a Monday.

### Science

The children will continue to plan and carry out scientific investigations, giving reasons based on evidence from comparative and fair tests for everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. As a written outcome, children will consider the materials the Vikings used in war and will make links to tools used in the period studied. Linked to materials, the children will consider dissolvable materials and how 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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – INSET day
- Tuesday 6th January 2026- Pupils back- first day of term
- Friday 23rd January 2026- Homework Projects due
- Friday 6th February 2026 - PTFA Disco
- Friday 13th February 2026 – Last Day of Term