

Year 4 Newsletter

Summer 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

The Vikings

In this topic, we will explore who the Vikings were. Using our timelines we will find out when the Vikings lived and why the Vikings came to Britain.

Our key text is Varjak Paw by S.F.Said.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Reading lessons this half term, we will use extracts from a range of texts including: Arthur and the Golden Rope, The Brilliant Deep, The Rhyme of Rain and information texts on the Vikings. Through our texts we will be focusing on the following objectives:

- Ask questions to improve our understanding of texts with increasing complexity.
- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence clearly taken from the text.
- Sequence and summarise information from texts.
- Discuss vocabulary in context and evaluate an author's choice of language.

Writing:

In Year 4, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan our writing by discussing and recording ideas.
- Draft and write in narratives, creating characters with consideration for the audience and purpose.
- Draft and write non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices.
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of his/her own writing and suggesting improvements.
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors, including the use of the apostrophe for possession, speech punctuation and the use of the comma for fronted adverbials.

We will be writing story openings, focused on characterisation. We will be using a version of Arthur and the Golden Rope to develop the following skills:

- Add extra details to show not tell.
- Describe a character's emotions using senses.
- Use different sentence structure: fronted adverbials, relative and embedded clauses.

We will also be writing explanation texts and will be focusing on the following skills:

- Use the structure of an explanation text: i.e. paragraphs, chronological order, present tense and conclusion.
- Use a formal, impersonal tone with stages broken down.
- Use technical vocabulary, cause and effect conjunctions and a variety of punctuation.

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas: expanded noun phrases, embedded and relative clauses, relative pronouns, different sentence openers.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Geometry

Shape

- Compare and classify geometric shapes, including quadrilaterals and triangles, based on their properties and sizes.
- Identify acute and obtuse angles. I can compare and order angles up to two right angles by size.
- Identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations.
- Complete a simple symmetric figure with respect to a specific line of symmetry.

Statistics

- Interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.
- Solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and other graphs.

We will continue to develop our counting and times tables skills throughout our lessons, in preparation for the Multiplication Check later this term.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

Our unit of science this half term is focused on states of matter. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- I can compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- I can observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).
- I can identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Our Enquiry skill focus will be on observing, measuring and recording. We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up.
- Group, sort and classify using criteria and simple keys.
- Recognise when and how secondary sources need to be used to answer questions.
- Make systematic observations. Make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of equipment needed.
- Notice natural patterns and decide what data to collect to identify them.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term will consist of two halves, exploring the uses of computing in real life: data collection and robotics, using Lego WeDo.

- I know what data is and can explain the difference with information.
- I can use software.
- I can use a computer to collect data.
- I can use a computer to analyse data to show something useful.
- I can explain why computers are sometimes used to control things.
- I can evaluate how well a piece of work does what it's supposed to do.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on plagiarism and giving credit to people for their work.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History:

Our history focus this half term is on Britain's invasion and settlement by the Vikings. We will explore different historical questions, including the following:

- How have the Vikings influenced life in Britain?
- What was a Viking settlement like?
- What jobs did Vikings do?
- How can artefacts help us understand Viking culture?

We will be developing the following historical skills:

- Develop chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- Establish clear narratives within and across the periods.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about significance.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation.
- Develop appropriate use of historical terms.

RE:

In RE, we will be exploring Christian worship and consider how and why churches are different.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be learning about vocabulary and phrases associated with the weather. We will be learning phrases for different types of weather. We will then be identifying different locations using compass points. Our final project will be focused on preparing and presenting a weather forecast for each day of the week, using our knowledge of key Spanish words and phrases.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Design and Technology:

In DT, we will be exploring sculpture skills like form, balance and structure. We will be learning about structures by first looking at how birds build nests and seeing what we can learn from them to make our own 3D models.

We will be developing the following DT skills:

- Use research for design ideas.
- Show that a design meets a range of requirements and is fit for purpose by creating a design-criteria.
- Explain design decisions considering the availability of resources and suggest improvements to the design.
- Explain how a product will work.
- Select suitable tools and equipment, explaining the choices.
- Work through a plan carefully to the finished product.
- Measure, mark out, cut and shape components with some accuracy.
- Assembly join and combine components with some accuracy.
- Refer to a design-criteria when evaluating a product.
- Explain alterations to a product after checking it.
- Evaluate others' work.

Music: Performing

- Performing as an ensemble/ band.
- Using tuned and non-tuned percussion, develop repertoire from previous term. Learn dedicated parts in preparation for a concert.
- Listening to more music genres and identifying genre from common themes
- Develop Singing repertoire by introducing harmony (NC p25).

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Athletics and Gymnastics. Some classes may be participating in their swimming lessons.

Athletics

Use the push and pull technique, perfect the long jump and learn the triple jump technique. Develop running speeds to be used within a competitive environment and learn the full relay with a baton.

Gymnastics

Develop an understanding of asymmetrical and Symmetrical shapes. Link actions to make sequences of movement with travel movements, shapes, jumps. Understand how to improve and evaluate their own success.

PSHE:

Our units this half term is 'Managing Risk' and 'Drug Education'. We will be learning how to:

- Identify risks and develop strategies for risky situations.
- Suggest known and unknown people we can ask for in risky situations.
- Identify further benefits and risks with road traffic and have strategies to stay safer and get help.
- Recognise an emergency and take suitable action.
- Understand more about different types of drugs and how they enter and affect the body.
- Develop understanding about essential use of medicines and people who use and administer them.
- Understand the practise how to act if harmful items or unknown substances are found.
- Begin to recognise influences from friends, the media and other sources and how to respond to these.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths:

Geometry: Symmetry, symmetrical, angle, triangle, quadrilateral, acute, obtuse, right angle, properties, isosceles, equilateral, scalene, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium

Statistics: bar, chart, graph, plot, scales, axis, interval, x-axis, y-axis, discrete, continuous, line graphs, survey, data

English:

Connective phrases, pronouns, sentence openings, apostrophes, clauses, conjunctions, determiners, adjectives, nouns, adverbs

Science:

Solid, liquid, gas, state, matter, particle, solidifying, freezing, melting, condensing, evaporating, thermometer, temperature, Celsius, Fahrenheit, degrees, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, ice, rain, clouds, vapour, transpiration, cycle, temperature change, Water Cycle

History:

Viking, invasion, raiders, settlers, travel, runes, Lindisfarne, Bede, settlements, trading, chronology, archaeology, artefact, primary and secondary sources.