

Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

The Anglo-Saxons!

In this topic, we will be learning about the history of the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings, exploring their impact upon Britain and the way they lived.

Our Key Text this half term is *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Guided Reading this half term, we will be focusing on the following objectives:

Participate in clear reasoned discussion about books, poems and other materials that are read to him/her and those he/she can read for himself/herself, taking turns and listening to what others say

Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these

Recognise some different forms of poetry e.g. free verse, narrative poetry

Retrieve and record information from non-fiction over a wide range of subjects.

Identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning

Writing:

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

Plan his/her writing by discussing writing similar to that which he/she is planning to write, in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.

Draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme.

Draft and write non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices.

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 our own warning stories, based on 'The Caravan'. We will focus on developing our setting descriptions:

Include short, punchy sentences for effect.

Show the character's feelings and use rhetorical questions.

Use dramatic connectives and fronted adverbials.

We will be writing persuasive texts:

Use power of three and varied sentence lengths.

Use powerful, exaggerating language for effect.

Use speech (to include testimonials and quotations).

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas:

use past tense consistently; apostrophes for contraction.

use speech punctuation correctly.

use fronted adverbials and different sentence lengths.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Continue Multiplication and Division unit:

Focus upon multiplying two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using a formal written method.

Measure - Area and Perimeter

Find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares.

Fractions

Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions.

Count up and down in hundredths and know that dividing an object by 100 creates hundredths as does dividing tenths by ten.

Solve problems involving fractions to calculate quantities and fractions to divide quantities.

Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.

Solve simple money and measure problems involving fractions.

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

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

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

I can identify common appliances that run on electricity

I can construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers

I can identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery

I can recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit

I can recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

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

Take accurate measurements and use a range of new equipment

Draw simple conclusions (to identify differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on programming.

We are beginning to look at programming in year 4 and will be working on the following areas.

I can programme a screen turtle.

I can programme letters.

I can create patterns and loops to make shapes.

Our digital literacy focus this half term will be on online communication.

I know the rules on how to communicate clearly and respectfully online.

I can participate respectfully in an online community.

I can create advice for others on how to communicate effectively online.

I can evaluate if someone's behaviour online is acceptable.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History:

Our history focus will be on the Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings, focused this half term on Britain's settlement by the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. We will explore different historical questions, including the following:

- How have the Anglo-Saxons influenced life in Britain?
- What was an Anglo-Saxon village like?
- What jobs did Anglo-Saxons do?
- How can artefacts help us understand Anglo-Saxon 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 focusing on Islam and exploring different aspects of the religion- for example, we will consider how prayer is important to Muslims, consider the significance of the mosque and the Qur'an and explore the Five Pillars.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be revisiting prior learning, such as numbers. We will then be looking at animals and developing our understanding of plurals.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art and Design

We will be looking at how artists display their work on plinths. And developing our skills to create our own sculpture of ourselves to display on our own plinth.

Key concepts:

- Understand that artists think carefully not just about what they make, but also how they present what they make.
- When we view sculpture we need to appreciate how sculpture is presented and if this gives a different reaction.
- How something will be seen can help us shape what is made.
- We can give thought to how we display the art we make, to help us understand how people will view our work.

We will be exploring what type of plinths can be used. Designing and evaluating the sculpture of ourselves. Our sculpture to include our interests and personality.

Weaving

To create a piece of weaving, linking to Anglo Saxons topic.

Music:

- Listening to popular music genres.
- Compose digital music to respond to the genre of the chosen piece using virtual instruments.
- Create singing repertoire in the style of the genres studied.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are swimming and OAA

Swimming

Develop safe entries including submersion, travel up to 10 metres on the front and back, progress rotation skills and water safety knowledge. Understand buoyancy through a range of skills.

Outdoor Adventurous Activity - OAA

Develop communication and cooperation skills in relation to problem solving skills - both verbal and non verbal.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Working Together':

Identify their own strengths and skills and those of others.

Identify skills they would like to develop.

Take part in a class learning challenge.

Know how to show they are listening using their body, express opinions confidently and ask open questions.

Work as a group to make decisions and solve a problem.

Know how different people can contribute to a group task

Persevere at a task.

Evaluate a group task, including giving and receiving feedback.

We will also be exploring the unit of 'Financial Capability':

Know that we receive money through a variety of means, including paid work.

Know ways to keep money safe, including saving it.

Understand that some of the ways we use money can make it grow or involve risk.

Understand that we make choices about spending for many different reasons.

Begin to understand that the choices we make affect us, our communities and the wider world.

Begin to understand and manage the sometimes uncomfortable and changing feelings we have about money.

Begin to understand that money may have different value and meaning to different people at different times and in different cultures.

Know about the work of a charity and why we might need it.

Manage money effectively in real life situations.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths: multiply, divide, multiple, factor, partition, product, quotient, array, share, commutative, inverse, part/whole, justify, explain, reason, repeated addition, square, squared, multiplication tables, multiplication facts

Line, centre, angle, right-angled, base, square-based, acute, obtuse, reflect, reflection, regular, irregular, classify, 2-D, two-dimensional, 3-D, three-dimensional, rectilinear, equilateral triangle, isosceles triangle, scalene triangle, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, quadrilateral, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium, polygon, parallel, perpendicular, orientation, cylinder, sphere, cylindrical, spherical, tetrahedron.

English: persuade; persuasion; leaflet; exaggeration; fronted adverbial; first, second, third person; imperative; rhetorical question; layout; adverb; adjective; expanded noun phrase; setting; resolution; narrative, clauses, phrases

Science: electricity, cell, battery, bulb, buzzer, wire, circuit, component, positive, negative, appliance, conductor, insulator, appliance, power, series, parallel, switch,

History: Anglo-Saxon, Viking, invasion, raiders, settlers, travel, runes, Beowulf, Bede, settlements, trading, Sutton Hoo, The Trumpington Cross Brooch, chronology, archaeology, artefact, primary and secondary sources.