

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

- Continue to listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and reference texts.
- 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 openers, focused on characterisation, and will be developing 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 - Position and Direction

- Plot positions on a 2-D grid as positive number coordinates.
- Describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down.
- Plot points given and draw sides to complete a given polygon.

### Decimals

- Find and write decimal equivalents using tenths and hundredths.
- Find and write decimal equivalents of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ .
- Divide one and two digit numbers by 10 and 100 and can explain the effect this has on place value.
- Round decimals using tenths to the nearest whole number.
- Compare numbers with the same number of decimal places (up to two decimal places).
- Solve simple money and measure problems involving decimals with up to two decimal places.

### 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 ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
- I can identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

**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 revising colours and then exploring shapes and the use of plurals.

## Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

### Art:

- Sculpture looking at how birds build nest, use experimental drawing and sculpture to create a birds nest.
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- Explore formal drawing and sculpture skills like line, mark making, shape and form, balance and structure.
- Connect drawing and making through designing and making nests, inspired by the things birds can teach us.

### 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 Kwik Cricket.

#### **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.

#### **Kwik Cricket**

Play the game of kwik cricket by playing adapted games and actual Kwik cricket. Develop bowling (push bowl) batting (forward drive/sideways) and fielding skills. Introduce the scoring system and be confident in all areas.

### PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Managing Risk and Safety Contexts'.

- Give an example of a physical, a social and an emotional risk.
- Give an example of how their friends might affect their decisions about risky situations.
- Name some emotions they might feel in a risky situation and how these might affect their body.
- Explain a strategy they could use for decision making in risky situations.
- Suggest ways of reducing risk in everyday situations and recognise ways of preventing accidents.
- Name some people they could ask for help in a risky situation.
- Recognise an emergency and suggest suitable action.
- Know the 5 elements of the Green Cross Code and describe the types of clothing which make them easily visible to traffic.
- Understand the dangers of fire, including smoke inhalation and be able to suggest some simple courses of action they can take.
- Know some safety rules for beaches and inland waterways.
- Suggest some general rules for safety and ways they can contribute to their own safety on a school trip.
- Describe preventable and unintentional accidents.

## Key Vocabulary

### Key Vocabulary for this half term:

#### Maths:

**Decimals:** Fractions, decimals, decimal fractions, tenths, hundredths, decimal point, decimal place, equivalent, part, whole

**Geometry:** Symmetry, symmetrical, translation, transformation, reflection, rotation, regular, irregular, line, centre, translate, rotate, reflection

**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

#### Geography:

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