

Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:
The Anglo-Saxons!

In this topic, we will be exploring the enquiry question: **What was life really like in Anglo-Saxon Britain and what did they leave behind?**

Our key text for this half term is **The Last Bear**.



Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Reading this half term we will be exploring different extracts from a range of texts, including: 'Chocolate Cake', 'The Last Bear', 'Listen', 'Beowulf', 'It's a No Money Day' and information texts on the Anglo Saxons. We will be focusing on the following objectives:

- Participate in reasoned discussion about texts and poems that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, 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:

- Recall times tables facts up to 12 x 12
- Use place value and number facts to multiply and divide mentally, including multiplying by 1 and 0, dividing by 1 and multiplying together 3 numbers.
- Use factor pairs in mental calculations
- Multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using a formal written method.
- Solve problems involving multiplication and addition, including using the distributive law (eg $3 \times (12+14) = 3 \times 12 + 3 \times 14$)

Measurement

- Convert between different units of measure (for example, kilometre to metre, hour to minute)
- Measure and calculate the perimeter of a rectilinear figure (including squares) in centimetres and metres.
- Find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares.

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 sound. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- I can identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating.
- I can recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.
- I can find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it.
- I can find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
- I can recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

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
- Make systematic observations and make decisions about what observations to make.
- Notice natural patterns and decide what data to collect to identify them
- Draw simple conclusions (to identify differences, similarities and changes) and use simple scientific language

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.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Computing:

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

- I can identify that accuracy in programming is important.
- I can create a program in a text-based language.
- I can explain what repeat means.
- I can modify a count-controlled loop to produce a given task.
- I can decompose a task into small steps.
- I can create a program to produce a given outcome.

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.

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.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art:

We will explore the works of Paul Cezanne and create our own still life drawings inspired by his artwork.

We will develop the following skills:

- Explore the work of contemporary and more traditional artists who work within the still life genre.
- Be able to express thoughts about other artists' work, and talk about the meanings of objects as artists present them.
- Use my sketchbook to make visual notes, record and reflect.
- Draw from observation and think about how I can use line, colour, shape, texture, form and composition to make my artwork interesting.
- Present and share my artwork, and explain how my sketchbook work helped build my knowledge and skills towards my final piece.

Music:

This half term we will be learning about improvising. We will be:

- Improvise using instruments.
- Exploring genre while using major/minor scales to improvise in the 'style of'.
- Creating polyrhythms using instruments and record the findings.
- Improvising melodies in a variety of genre.
- Understanding expression, phrasing, ostinati and employing technique when using major and minor scales.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be learning about vocabulary associated with visiting a café. We will be reading and creating typical Spanish café menus and then learning to order food and drinks. We will have the chance to role-play conversations between waiting staff and customers. When practising and performing these roleplays, we will evaluate our conversations to make them sound as natural as possible.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Swimming and OAA (Sidney Sussex class will be swimming next half term).

Swimming

Develop safe entries to the water 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.

OAA (Outdoor and Adventurous Activity)

Develop fundamental movement skills, becoming confident when using a map and engage in competitive and co-operative activities.

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

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: sound, sound waves, vibration, air, travel, vacuum, pitch (high and low), tone, volume, absorb, insulation, amplitude, medium, ear, cochlea, pinna, hammer, anvil, stirrup, auditory nerve, eustachian tube, ear canal

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.