

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:

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

Geometry: Properties of Shape

- Compare and classify geometric shapes, including quadrilaterals and triangles, based on their properties and sizes.
- Identify acute and obtuse angles and 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.
- Recognise where angles are greater than two right angles and know the term straight angle refers to two right angles together.
- Use line symmetry with two lines of symmetry.

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.

- I know what an algorithm is and can give some examples of what algorithms can be used for.
- I can design a program on paper.
- I can repeat something a certain number of times.
- I can write my own algorithm.
- I can write my own programs.
- I can use software to create work for a given task.

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:

Linked with our DT learning, we will be designing Anglo-Saxon brooches and exploring patterns and colours in this process. We will develop our ideas based on a range of real-life Anglo-Saxon arts and crafts:

We will develop the following skills:

- Use sketchbooks to collect and record visual information from different sources.
- Developing techniques to create intricate patterns using different grades of pencil and other implements/media to create lines, marks and develop tone.
- Evaluate our own, and each other's, artistic choices.

DT:

Building on our explorations of pattern in Art, we will design, create and evaluate Anglo-Saxon brooches. We will develop the following skill areas:

- Use research and design criteria to inform design of Anglo-Saxon brooches.
- Develop ideas to inform the design of innovative, functional and appealing products by looking at, exploring and analysing examples of real-life brooches.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion and annotated sketches.
- Select from a range of tools and equipment to perform their practical task of creating a brooch (e.g. cutting, shaping, joining, finishing).
- Select and use a wider range of materials and components, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.
- Investigate and analyse a range of existing Anglo-Saxon brooches.
- Evaluate their final design against their own, original design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.
- Apply our understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce their brooches to ensure they are stable, fit for purpose and are able to be fitted to clothing.

Music: **Improvise**

- Improvise using instruments.
- Explore genre while using major/minor scales to improvise in the 'style of'.
- Create 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.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Tag Rugby and Gymnastics.

Tag Rugby

Experience small-sided games of Tag Rugby. Develop passing backwards, key principles of the game and defending.

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 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 Trpington Cross Brooch, chronology, archaeology, artefact, primary and secondary sources.