

Our Learning: Year 4 Spring 1 2024 – Invaders & Settlers



At school

Options for home learning

English	This half term, we will be reading and exploring the novel 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. As well as practising the reading skills of retrieval, inference, author choice and explanation, we will develop our understanding of persuasive techniques by preparing and performing speeches to inspire the people of Scyld to rise up against the monster. We will then write adventure stories, discovering how to develop our characters and plots more deeply to engage our reader. During this topic, we will also revise and extend our understanding of apostrophes for possession and contraction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other Norse legends can you discover? Do you have a favourite? Draw a picture of Grendel and write an accompanying character description. Play spot the apostrophe error! When you are out and about, look for misplaced apostrophe's on signs and posters.
Maths	We will begin this half term continuing our focus on multiplication, beginning with application of the 6, 9, 7 and 12 times tables and deepening our understanding of multiplicative relationships. We will then move on to formal written methods of multiplication and problem solving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise your times tables up to 12x12 on TTRS or Doodle Tables. Teach a grown up how to do formal written multiplication with regrouping. There is a calculation guide and video on the school website in case they get stuck!
Science	In Science, Year 4's topic is 'Animals Including Humans'. We will start with food chains and webs, before moving on to aspects of human biology including teeth and digestion. Using the scientific skills of observation and comparison, we will seek to describe and explain similarities and differences in the teeth and digestive systems of humans and other animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the difference in the number and type of teeth different animals have. Can you explain the differences? Make your own paper-food-chain linking a <i>producer</i>, <i>primary consumer</i> and <i>secondary consumer</i>.
History	Our topic this term is 'Invaders and Settlers' in which we study the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. Drawing on primary and secondary sources, the first part of our learning will cover the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, their weapons and beliefs. We will then find out about the Vikings and their legacy, and end the term with a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search for a traditional Anglo Saxon recipe such as 'honey, oat and spice cakes' and see what you think of old English food! Make a time capsule that reflects your every day life. What objects or pieces of writing would make good primary sources for future historians?
Other	Our topic in RE this term is Christianity, with a focus on stories and important figures. Our art work is linked to our learning in history, exploring Anglo-Saxon patterns and printing. In French, we will be looking at feminine nouns and adjectival agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own Anglo-Saxon shield. Can you follow the same design as an Anglo-Saxon pattern? Write a list of your dreams and goals for the future and keep it somewhere safe to look back on in years to come.

Key Dates

4th and 5th January: INSET Days

PE Tuesdays—please wear PE kit

Dance Fridays—please wear PE kit

31st January: 4GR class assembly—grown ups invited

Daily Practice

Vary independent reading with listening to your child read and reading aloud to your child for at least 15 minutes per day. You can check the year 3/4 book list for [Recommended Reading](#). Aim for at least three entries in the Reading Record each week (due Mondays).

Children need to know their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Practise times tables on [TTRS](#) and practise other maths learning on [Doodle maths](#). Aim to stay in the Doodle Green Zone! Practise spellings on the year 4 spellings letter, as well as the year [3/4 statutory spellings](#) list. Complete the weekly spelling homework on [Google Classroom](#) (due Mondays).