

THE VIKINGS: RAIDERS OR TRADERS?



In **Maths**, we will continue to work on securing some of our formal written methods; looking at the short and long methods for multiplication. We will also be teaching the short method for division (also known as the bus stop method) and begin to look at how remainders could be recorded. After this, we will be moving onto our second unit of fractions. We will be covering: multiplying fractions by an integer, finding a fraction of an amount and using fractions as operators. We will also begin our unit on Decimals and percentages which will continue into Spring 2.

Our main topic driver is **History** this half term as we learn all about the Vikings. The children's learning will focus on the Viking's motivation for leaving their homelands and exploring, plundering and/or settling in many parts of the northern hemisphere, including almost conquering Britain. The children will compare different primary and secondary resources looking at the perspectives of the Vikings but also those who fell victim to their raids. The school trip to Ufton Court will enrich our learning even further as the children will pretend to be Viking farmers, attempt to row a Viking ship and practise their best battle moves too!

In **Science**, we will continue to learn about Properties and Changes of Materials. The children will use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated through filtering, sieving, magnetism and evaporation. They will identify reversible and irreversible changes through changes of state and the formation of new materials. The children will conclude the topic with an investigation into the reaction between Alka-Selzer tablets and water!

In **English** we have some exciting writing opportunities ahead! Firstly, we will be completing a fiction unit linked to the story 'Three Little Vikings', where a troll comes to terrorise the Viking village. We will explore the text through sentence stacking and then the children will be required to rewrite the story from the Chief's perspective. The children will then complete a further unit where they will write diary entries in role as the main character from our class focus text, 'Odd and the Frost Giants'. We will start reading this very soon! Weekly spelling lessons, Grammar lessons, daily Groovy Grammar and daily reading tasks all contribute to our English curriculum too. Don't forget you can see the children's fortnightly spellings on Google Classroom!

In **French**, the children will be learning how to talk about pets! The children will learn how to tell somebody in French if they have or do not have a pet, ask somebody else in French if they have a pet also tell somebody the name of their pet.

Our **PSHE** will continue to be taught through HeartSmart this half term, exploring the principle, "Too Much Selfie, Isn't Healthy." Having thought about the value we should place on our own hearts, we now begin to revisit how we can look after the hearts of others. We will also have specific lessons on mental health and wellbeing this half term.

Music will involve learning about Viking music and chanting. The children will listen to and explore various modern Scandinavian interpretations, including folk, rock, throat singing and pop.

PE will take place twice a week and will continue to be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The children will still need to come to school in their PE kits on these days, with extra layers for warmth. Please also remember that earrings must be removed or taped and long hair must be tied back. Thank you.

In **RE**, children will explore the key question 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' and focus on the eight key events in Moses' life.

Our **Design and Technology** this half term will be based on electrical systems. The children will be exploring motors in simple circuits and other products as we will be creating 'Doodlers'. The children will research, design and create a doodler which will work using a simple circuit.

NEW Following feedback from parents, we are reintroducing formal **homework** to Year 5 children. The children will be set a piece of SPaG homework to complete each week and this will be due in every Monday. Hopefully this will help to prepare children for the homework they will receive in Year 6 and then beyond in secondary school. Children will use some of their Tuesday lunchtime to catch up on missed homework and home reading (at least four times a week) as required.

Computing will focus on stop motion animation. We will use an app on the iPads to create our own short animations linked to the Vikings, which we will evaluate and edit before publishing our final versions. We will also develop our understanding of different vocabulary including 'onion skinning' and 'frame'.

Date for your diaries - PGL Information evening Wednesday 11th January 2023 6pm

Trip to Ufton Court – Thursday 9th February 2023 (non-school uniform please – warm clothes that can get mucky, a coat and wellies in a carrier bag)