

MRS PORTER

Year 6 Class Newsletter

Summer term one

Here is an update on the curriculum for Year 6 during this term:

Following our updated curriculum, we will shortly be beginning our new focus question: What was the impact of Viking invasion of Britain?

Our focus questions help us to accumulate knowledge over the course of this academic year to be able to answer our big question: Do invasions change countries forever?

During this focus, in history, the children will learn that the Vikings came from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). They will gain an understanding that the Vikings sailed over to Britain in their longboats and plundered the rich and defenceless monasteries that were built in coastal areas before heading inland to raid. They will know that the Vikings came to Britain looking for lucrative new items to steal and trade. In addition, they wanted land that they could take and claim as their own. The children will be learning to describe the social, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of this past society, understanding the way of life of Vikings, including clothing, religion, houses, food etc. They will also understand the Anglo-Saxon Justice system and how this compares to other time periods studied. When making comparisons and contrasts between historical periods, the children will be explaining things that have changed and things which have stayed the same. When working historically, the children will use a range of sources of evidence to deduce information about the past. They will find out about Anglo-Saxon kings who were involved with the Vikings: King Edmund, Ethelred, Alfred, Aethelred, Edward and Athelstan. Additionally, they will understand the Battle of Hastings meant that the Viking age in Britain and Anglo-Saxon rule came to an end. The Normans were now in charge. Furthermore, they will understand the influence the Vikings had on place names and language.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that it is Summer term 1 already! This year is going by so fast.

In Year 6, we have been very busy working hard preparing for our SATS tests. These tests will be undertaken during this half term between Monday 9th May 2022 - Thursday 12th May 2022. It is important that no children have time off during this week. Additionally, our time in class leading up to this date will be important in preparing the children for these assessments. It is therefore important that time absent from school is minimised - any holidays will not be authorised.

This newsletter will inform you of our curriculum for this upcoming term.
Mrs Porter

Parents Evenings

A polite reminder that we will be holding parent's evenings on Tuesday 26th April and Wednesday 27th April. On these evenings, you will have the opportunity to look at your children's work, and I look forward to discussing their progress with you.

Forest School

After the SATS, year 6 will be enjoying forest school/outdoor learning. They will be in groups of 10. Each group will complete 3 sessions before they leave in the summer. Further information will be sent out about this in due course.

Curriculum update continued ...

Interestingly, to make connections with our prior learning about colonisation in North America, the children will discover that the Vikings had a settlement in North America exactly one thousand years ago, centuries before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas.

In geography, the children will describe and understand the interaction between physical and human processes in terms of the effect the landscape has on land use, location of settlements and availability of natural resources. Additionally, they will describe and understand key aspects of human geography. They will understand that a settlement is a place where people live and they will recognise that these can be permanent or temporary. Moreover, they will understand that a settlement is built on a settlement site and the situation of this site is crucial. They will understand the factors involved when deciding where to build a site, including: dry point, aspect, trading centre, ports, resort, industrial town, market towns. The children will also learn that land use can vary from place to place e.g. for forestry, agriculture, industry, housing, conservation, reservoirs. To aid their understanding of our Viking topic, they will explore how the Vikings started to settle, finding the land more suited to farming than the forests and mountainous regions of their home. Furthermore, the children will understand that trade is the way people all around the world buy and sell goods or services. They will understand what imports and exports are. Finally, they will understand how the land was used in York during different time periods.

In D&T, the children will be cooking this half term - creating traditional bread. They will research Viking cooking techniques and explore bread recipes from various times giving considered opinions. After their initial research, they will create a recipe for Viking bread. During the making process, they will practise measuring, mixing, kneading and shaping. Their finished product will be a baked loaf of bread, considering ancient times. During evaluation, they will consider how well the product has been designed, adaptations to the design and the success of the product based on the brief.

Summer term P.E

Now that it is the summer term, swimming can resume! Year 6 will be swimming on a Friday morning. Please ensure that your child has a swimming costume and towel on this day.

As we are now doing swimming as one of our PE sessions, children will now only need to wear PE kit on a Wednesday for our session with Elite Sports. Swimming is replacing our usual Thursday PE throughout the summer terms.

Reading for Pleasure

Our class reading books for this half-term are going to be Viking Boy by Tony Bradman and How to be a Hero by Cat Weldon.

Viking Boy is about Gunnar, the son of a Viking chieftain, living peacefully on his family steading with his mother, father and their people - until they are raided by Skuli and his Wolf Men, who raze his home to the ground and take his father's life. Gunnar swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli - but first he must run to save himself. Murderous raiders, hand to hand battles to the death, mythical flying wolves and a relentless sea journey to the Land of Fire and Ice... Unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.

How to be a Hero is the first in a hilarious and fast-paced trilogy about how to be brave, what it means to be a hero and just how confusing the Norse Gods really are. Fully illustrated throughout, Cat Weldon's How to Be a Hero is perfect for fans of How to Train Your Dragon and Who Let the Gods Out.