



4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a wonderful summer break. I am looking forward to another great year ahead, working closely in partnership with you.

We have lots of exciting learning planned for the term:

Our big question this term is **'Is it fair to call all Vikings brutal invaders?'**

Class novel: *The Viking Boy* by Tony Bradbury

English:

We will start off by using Joe Todd-Stanton's *'Arthur and the Golden Rope'* to explore adventure narratives. This will enable the children to consolidate the basics for narrative composition, with a specific focus on descriptive devices, sentence structures, and speech. Within this unit, children will produce character and setting descriptions as well as diary entries before writing their very own adventure narratives. We will then use Michael Morpurgo's *'Beowulf'* to explore both biography and kennings. All pupils will continue to focus on the grammar skills needed to become better writers. We will embed reading skills and SPaG knowledge into our units. We will practise spellings daily and handwriting several times each week.

Maths: We will start by consolidating and strengthening our understanding of number and place value before moving on to the four operations and fractions. The children will have weekly arithmetic sessions and regular times table practice.

Science: We will be learning about properties and changes of materials. Within this unit, we will compare and group materials based on common properties, explore reversible and irreversible changes, define states of matter, and identify different methods of separating materials. We will use practical activities to draw our own hypotheses and conclusions, with a focus on setting up and carrying out fair tests. We will also develop our skills in recording data in a variety of charts, graphs and tables.

PE: This term, the class will have swimming on Wednesdays at Hornby and one PE lesson each Thursday. In our PE lessons, we will explore storytelling through dance. We will develop skills in using dance to express character and convey emotions and moods as well as effectively linking sequences of movement in order to tell a story under the title of 'Passport to Europe'.

RE: We will start by exploring Christianity through the question - 'How do Christians mark the turning points of the journey of life?'. We will identify the key events and celebrations in life, exploring their personal significance and possible religious links. Following this, we will focus on baptism, where we will explore why people get baptised (and the differences between an infant baptism and a believer's baptism), analyse the story of Jesus' baptism and look at the symbolism associated with baptism. Next, we will focus on 'Buddhism', where our learning will be led by the question 'What do we mean by a 'good' life?'.



Geography: In geography, we will be looking at globalisation and fair trade. We will explore the term 'globalisation', linking it to increased communication and technology, and its effect on trade. We will examine the positive and negative implications that are the result of globalisation, such as cheaper products, more jobs, environmental impact and working conditions, before reaching a conclusion to our question: 'Globalisation has made the world a better place. How much do you agree?'.

History: This term, we will be learning about The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor. Our learning will be led by the questions 'What were the Vikings really like?' and 'Is it fair to call all Vikings brutal invaders?'. Our substantive concept for this unit is migration and we will explore the push and pull factors that led to the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons travelling to Britain, linking to current events within the world today. We will also explore the concepts of invaders and settlers and spend time looking at the different ways we learn about history before exploring the reasons why there are different interpretations of the past.

French: Our first unit, 'Quel temps fait-il?', focuses on describing the weather using all four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. To consolidate their learning, at the end of the half term, the children will write and perform their own weather forecasts in French. Following this, we will learn to discuss opinions on sports and health under the title of 'Les sports et la santé' and we will share our work with our friends in the primary school in Socx. Of course, Year 6 will also be immersed in French language and culture on their residential trip to France in September.

Art: We will explore photography and use a range of digital programmes and non-digital techniques to create pieces using photomontage, microphotography and a range of digital photography techniques. We will take inspiration from Dadaism and artists including Chris Plowman and Graham Holland.

DT: We will be exploring mechanical systems and woodwork skills to design and create a game for the Christmas fair.

Computing: We will start with the unit 'Searching the internet', where we will learn how computers communicate with other devices before delving into search engines. We will explore how to effectively search using a search engine, how to refine searches, compare different search engines, and understand the role of crawlers in the creation of an index. Following this, we will explore videoing, with a specific focus on cutting and editing.

Music: We will initially focus on notation, both in terms of rhythm and pitch to allow children to then confidently read and compose music and accurately record it. Following this, we will apply our knowledge of notation to film music, where we will explore the terms major and minor and identify how different instruments can evoke different emotions. Throughout the unit, we will also focus on pitch, tempo and dynamics and their role in creating atmosphere and emotion within a piece of music.



PSHE: We will start with Health and wellbeing, where we will look at physical wellbeing (making informed decisions, time online and seeking support), mental health (mental illness and loss), and growing and changing (personal identity and managing setbacks). We will also learn about relationships, with a focus on safe and positive relationships, and living in the wider world.

PE and Outdoor learning

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times and their swimming kits in school on a Wednesday. We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

Snacks

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

Homework

This term, we will be focusing on key skills in maths and English, both in class and for homework. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

Daily reading - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

Weekly spellings - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. A spelling letter will be given out in the first week.

Times tables - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables i.e. 0 times 5 is 0, 1 times 5 is 5, 2 times 5 is 10 etc. and knowing related division facts i.e. 0 divided by 5 is 0, 5 divided by 5 is 1, 10 divided by 5 is 2 etc. We will test times tables on a Friday in school.

Maths and Reading - The children will be set a page of short questions to complete for homework. The questions will be set on Google Classroom and answers should be recorded in children's homework books. This will be set on a Tuesday and due in by Friday, where we will mark together.

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or in person at the beginning or end of the school day or by phone.

Best wishes,

Miss Whinnett