

Welcome to Year 4, we have an exciting topic this term which covers the impact of various invaders and settlers after the Romans left Britain. We'll look at Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in particular. The Vikings had a rich storytelling culture and we will be exploring some of their stories and beliefs, which are full of dragons, gods and battles. We will use these as further inspiration for much of our creative work.

If you have any questions or messages, please feel free to talk to us on the playground, contact us by email or phone the office.

# Settled Saxons, Vile Vikings and Dangerous Dragons

If you need to contact us, please use the emails below.

We will reply as soon as possible.

Miss Coulson (4C) - [miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:miss.coulson@greattotham.essex.sch.uk)

Mrs Brothers (4B) - [mrs.brothers@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:mrs.brothers@greattotham.essex.sch.uk)

## English

To link with our topic, the children will learn about kennings, a form of Norse poetry. We will use different Viking sagas as inspiration for narrative writing which will include descriptions of settings and characters. As part of this, children will focus on making vocabulary choices to engage and entertain a reader. They will also develop their ability to include dialogue.

We will use the book and film 'How To Train Your Dragon' to stimulate non-fiction writing. The children will write a persuasive letter asking you to let them have a dragon as a pet. They will write instructions on how to catch a dragon and write an explanation on how to care for them. The focus will be on paragraphing, layout for clarity and sentence types.

Weekly guided reading sessions take place on Mondays. During these sessions, children carry out some reading as well as learning how to analyse and write about what they've read.

Most children will have a green practice book for home reading. Please see the inside cover for tips on how to support your child with this. However, if your child is on yellow books they are independent readers and practice books are no longer required.



## Reading for pleasure



We are keen to encourage the children's love of books and of reading for pleasure. As the practice books (up to yellow band) are designed to help develop reading skills, children will have an additional text to read simply for the joy of it.

They may bring something in from home or choose from the school library or classroom.



## Maths

We will start the term with a focus on understanding place value and how the number system works. Children will explore different ways to represent numbers as well as how to recognise, order and compare them. They will then build on their existing calculation skills to become proficient with mental and written methods. Children will be taught to apply their calculation skills when investigating and solving a range of mathematical problems in different contexts, using images and models when needed.

Children will also work on learning their times-tables and division facts. They are expected to know up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. Regular practise of times tables at home would be of great benefit to your child.

### History and Geography

Focusing on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, our topic is a study of the power struggle for control of Britain after the Romans left. Children will create timelines for this period and use sources of evidence to help learn about invasions, settlements and the lives of people at this time. They will learn where many of these invaders came from and identify the countries on a map. There will also be a chance to learn about how the Battle of Maldon shaped the history of our local area and to create sketch maps of Northey Island.



### Art and Design

The children will practise different stitches and learn how to applique before designing and sewing their final Viking inspired scene. As part of our science work, children will carry out observational drawings of leaves focusing on a high level of detail.

### Design and Technology

The children will investigate mechanisms to create their own book with moving parts, including levers and pop-ups.

### Science

This term, children will learn how to use and create classification keys to help identify plants and animals. They will then learn about habitats, food chains and different environments, before beginning to explore the human impact on habitats and how they can be protected.

### French

The children will build on their Year 3 knowledge. They will learn about grammar used in the language as well as using colours to describe objects and how to talk about their family.



### Music

Children will learn songs inspired by Viking myths and legends and begin to find out about musical notation. Later in the term they will start to learn how to play the recorder.

### Computing

Throughout the term, we will be looking at the importance of e-safety, revising the SMART rules and making sure they understand what to do if they have concerns.

Children will use Publisher to create a poster for the topic including images, text and WordArt. They will also learn how to create simple Excel spreadsheets and use formulae to make a times tables aid. In each lesson, they will have the opportunity to improve their touch typing skills.

### RE

This term, the children will be learning about Christianity, focussing on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the calling of the disciples. Later in the term, the children will learn about the founder of Sikhism and study stories about him.



### Homework

English and Maths homework is set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. It should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete each subject.

Maths will generally be an online task using 'MyMaths'. The second task will normally be English, based on what we've been doing in class but may occasionally be topic. These tasks will be set on Google Classrooms. Children can choose whether to complete these on-line or in a homework book. If you need paper copies please let us know.

Additionally try to read with your child at least 3 times a week. It would be extremely beneficial if children could also practise spellings and times tables regularly.

If your child needs support with homework tasks, please do let us know as soon as possible.

### Life Skills

Through lessons and regular circle time, the children will continue to learn the importance of understanding and talking about feelings through the use of the Zones of Regulation.

They will consider the qualities needed to be a good friend, understand that people have different opinions and learn how to show respect for others.

We will revisit how to recognise bullying behaviour and the importance of reporting it.

### PE

#### **PE Sessions — Monday and Wednesday**



The children will begin to learn the basics of tennis, including how to grip the racket correctly and develop accuracy when hitting. After half term, they will learn different passes, how to shoot and correct footwork for netball.

In gymnastics, the children will learn techniques for jumping, rolling and travelling and develop their own sequences. Later in the term they will be introduced to some country dances where they will learn required moves and perform them as a group.

If your child is unable to take part in any PE sessions, please inform your child's teacher.