

KINGDOMS & CONQUERORS

Kindness and Respect

This half term, we will be focusing on the values of kindness and respect. We will be encouraging the children to think about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. We will also be discussing how we can show respect through the way we speak, listen and behave towards others.

Rationale:

This half term's learning experience will explore the Anglo-Saxons and their conflict with the Vikings. The children will investigate what life was like in Anglo-Saxon England, how the Anglo-Saxons responded to Viking raids and invasions, and how England eventually became a unified kingdom. We will develop key historical skills by examining evidence and interpretations, consequences and change. Our learning will have a strong local connection, exploring the significance of Alfred the Great and the Somerset Levels, helping children to understand how events of national importance linked to their local area.

Start Date: 7th September

End Date: 23rd October

Hook: Tuesday 22nd September

For our hook day, we will be visiting Avalon Archaeology for their immersive Saxon Life experience. The children will step back into Anglo-Saxon Somerset and explore what life was like for people at different levels of society, from King Alfred to servants, considering status, roles and hierarchy. They will also investigate how historians and archaeologists use different sources of evidence to piece together our understanding of the past.

Music

This term, the children will have the exciting opportunity to learn to play the violin, with lessons delivered by a specialist teacher from Somerset Music Service. They will develop their understanding of rhythm, pitch and musical notation while learning the techniques needed to play the instrument successfully. Through playing together as an ensemble, the children will also develop their listening, cooperation, and performance skills, building confidence and enjoyment in making music together.

Take home task: Due 19th October

Your child must choose at least one of the following activities:

- Build an Anglo-Saxon settlement or longhouse.
- Create a costume, shield, piece of jewellery or other artefact that might have been owned by an Anglo-Saxon or Viking.
- Create a presentation, poster, fact file or comic strip about Alfred the Great.
- Imagine an Anglo-Saxon or Viking artefact has been discovered. Create or draw the artefact and explain what it is.

How you can support your child at home:

- Encourage your children to find out more about the Anglo-Saxons or Vikings.
- Learn tables facts up to 12 x 12 and associated division facts.
- Ensure that your child reads at least 5 times a week and has the opportunity to discuss their reading with you. Please could you ensure this is recorded in their reading record.
- Help them to learn their weekly spellings and ensure they understand their meaning.
- Support children in completing their Maths and English homework, encouraging independence where possible.

English

Our English this half term will complement our *Kingdoms and Conquerors* learning experience through the rich texts *Arthur and the Golden Rope* by Joe Todd-Stanton and *Anglo-Saxon Boy* by Tony Bradman. The children will explore these texts as inspiration for a range of purposeful reading and writing opportunities. Years 3 and 4 will focus on developing descriptive vocabulary, organising ideas effectively and using an increasing range of sentence structures and punctuation. Years 5 and 6 will build on these skills by making more deliberate choices about vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure, developing cohesion and adapting their writing for different purposes and audiences. Throughout the learning, children will also develop their comprehension skills and deepen their understanding of the historical world explored in the texts.

Maths

We will begin the year by developing a secure understanding of place value, ensuring children have strong foundations on which to build their mathematical learning. We will then move on to explore the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Years 3 and 4 will develop their fluency and confidence with increasingly larger numbers and efficient calculation methods, while Years 5 and 6 will extend and apply these skills to more complex calculations. Across all groups, children will be encouraged to reason mathematically, explain their thinking and apply their understanding to a range of problem-solving contexts.

Science

This half term, our science learning will focus on forces. The children will explore how forces affect the movement of objects and investigate concepts including gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. Years 3 and 4 will develop their understanding through practical investigations, exploring pushes, pulls, and the effects of different surfaces. Years 5 and 6 will build on this knowledge by investigating forces in greater depth, including how mechanisms such as levers and pulleys can allow a smaller force to have a greater effect. Throughout the unit, children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by making predictions, carrying out fair tests, recording results and drawing conclusions.

Art

This half term, the children will develop their drawing and observation skills, exploring how line, shape, texture and tone can be used to create detailed artwork. They will experiment with different mark-making and shading techniques to show light, dark and texture, before applying these skills using both traditional materials and digital tools. The children will then bring their learning together to create their own artwork.

Computing

This half term, Years 3 and 4 will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes and outputs. They will compare digital and non-digital devices, before being introduced to computer networks that include routers and switches. Years 5 and 6 will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. They will explore the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. They will discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results), what influences searching, and through comparing different search engines.

RE

In RE this half term, the children will explore the question ‘What helps people make good decisions?’ They will consider how people decide what is right and wrong and explore the different sources of guidance and authority that influence our choices. Through learning about Christianity, Islam and non-religious worldviews, children will compare different perspectives on ethics and values, while reflecting on the beliefs and values that can guide their own decisions.

