

PE

We will be developing our coordination, agility and fitness through gymnastics and indoor athletics this term. In gymnastics we will focus on combining balances, rolls and jumps to move with precision and control.

Computing

We will continue to develop our programming skills this term, beginning to use a language called Python. This is 'proper' coding, written in lines of text, and as well as building simple games we will focus heavily on learning to debug our code when things go wrong.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...

Science

Our next topic focuses on evolution. We will be learning how living things have changed over time, adapting to suit their specific environment. We will investigate the evidence for the theory of evolution, looking at what fossils can tell us about the living things that lived on Earth millions of years ago. We will also be learning about the work of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace.

The Arts

In art, we will be creating mixed-media collages of Viking ships. We will experiment with combinations of different materials to explore the effects they create, and then carefully select and shape pieces to represent stormy seas, mighty longships and Viking warriors. Later in the term we will also be designing and making Viking shields.

Maths

We will start the term by investigating 'order of operations' (the rules that decide what order we should do calculations in), and will begin to explore the use of algebra to represent and solve problems. After that, we will move on to develop our knowledge of geometry, using protractors to measure and draw angles, as well as calculating missing angles in triangles and quadrilaterals. Later in the term, we will move on to coordinates, plotting, reflecting and translating shapes in all four quadrants. Throughout the term, Year 6 will continue with their weekly Booster sessions, looking to secure our understanding of key areas of maths, and we will all be practicing our arithmetic skills every day.

Humanities

History

We will be investigating Viking and Anglo-Saxon Britain this term. After identifying who the Vikings were and where they came from, we will learn more about their raids on Britain and the battles which resulted in them dominating much of modern England. We will meet King Alfred the Great, find out why he is the only English king called 'the Great' and discover how he made peace with the Viking invaders.

RE

We will be learning about Sikhism this half-term, exploring the beliefs and history of this major religion. We will also investigate the '5ks' - objects and symbols that Sikhs wear to demonstrate their faith.

English

Our first unit of the term will focus on writing and presenting persuasive speeches, built around a fab book called *Talking History*, which is filled with great speeches from the last 150 years. We will explore the use of second person, rhetorical questions, hyperbole and modal verbs within persuasive writing, and will also develop our understanding of the difference between formal and informal English.

After that, we will move on to non-chronological reports, using *Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World* as our core text. We will develop our use of layout features including bullet points, diagrams and subheadings to make our reports clear and easy to understand, as well as exploring the use of passive voice.

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PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- You can have a go at coding in Python by heading to python.org. There are loads and loads of tutorials and ideas, and you can download the same coding tools and software that we will be using in class.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- There are lessons online to support our next topic on the BBC Bitesize site at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z9qs4qt
- Keep an eye out for animals when you're out and about, and think about how they're suited to their environment - do their colours help them to stay hidden? How do they keep warm in winter?

The Arts

There are loads of craft projects linked to the Vikings you could have a go at - to get started, have a look at some of these sites:

www.imagininghistory.co.uk/post/viking-craft-activities-for-kids
www.diys.com/viking-themed-projects/
happybrownhouse.com/viking-ship-craft-for-kids/

Maths

As always, quick recall of tables facts is vital for many of the strategies we use, so it would be brilliant if you could work on this. Focus on one table at a time and try:

- Making-up rhymes to help remember number facts ("4 x 6 is 24, bears growl and lions roar!")
- Looking for numbers in that table in the world around you - on doors, car number plates, in phone numbers or when you're out shopping.
- Writing-out tables with finger paints, chalk or water-on-tarmac, or make them from playdoh.
- Chanting, singing, whispering... Say tables out loud together whenever you have the chance.

Humanities

- Beware of Google-ing Vikings at home - you'll get lots of links to the TV series, which definitely isn't Year 5 appropriate! Instead, have a look at the BBC Bitesize resources at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6 This includes really quick video clips that explain who the Vikings were and where they came from, and will give us a good head-start in lessons.
- Oak Academy also have a series of home learning lessons on Vikings and life in Viking Britain. These are all about 15 minutes long and again make the timeline of the Viking and Anglo Saxon period really clear. They're free to access and you can find them at: classroom.thenational.academy/units/vikings-and-anglo-saxons-vced874

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to listen to your child as often as possible and talk to them about what's happened so far and what they think might happen next.
- Spelling homework goes out every Thursday, so please help your child to learn these. You can find more advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf
- There are absolutely loads of versions of Viking myths available to read and watch. Try starting with the BBC's animated versions: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/viking-sagas-age-7-11



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