

PE

We will be developing our running, jumping, balancing and throwing skills through indoor athletics this term. We will also continue with our weekly swimming lessons, aiming to all be able to swim at least 25m unaided.

Computing

We will be continuing our work with Micro:bits, clever bits of kit which can be programmed to send messages, respond to commands and collect data. We will be using the MakeCode platform to write code for these units and create simple games.

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



VICIOUS VIKINGS!

FOXES - SPRING 2025

English

Our next writing unit will focus on biographies. We will use a collection of fantastic books retelling the lives of ground-breaking scientists from history to help us to explore the features of biographical writing, including the use of quotes, relative clauses and brackets. At the end of the unit, we will pull all of these skills together to write our own biographies of people who inspire us.

Later in the term we will move on to examine persuasive writing, using a fab book called *The Misadventures of Frederick* by Ben Manley as our starting point. Our final task for this unit will see us writing letters to Miss Shaw, trying to persuade her to change something at school.

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

Having secured lots of key arithmetic skills last term, we will now focus on applying them to different areas of maths. We will learn to compare, order, add and subtract fractions, and will link these to equivalent percentages. We will also learn to calculate percentages and fractions of amounts. After that, we will move on to geometry, finding the area and perimeter of shapes made of rectangles and beginning to explore volume. Later in the term, we will build on our knowledge of angle, using protractors to measure angles and calculating angles in triangles and on straight lines. Throughout the term we will continue to develop our tables knowledge, and will be tested on this regularly.

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.

Throughout the term we will also be discovering what it was like to live in Viking times. We will find out what they wore and ate, what their homes were like and how they were governed. We will also learn about their gods and read a range of Norse myths and legends.

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

- All of the tasks we've worked on in class are available at microbit.org. There are links to the MakeCode editor we've been using, loads of ideas in the projects library and lots more info about these clever devices.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



VICIOUS VIKINGS!

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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.

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

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-vc874