

Vicious Vikings?

Year 4
Spring term 2023
Curriculum newsletter



Maths

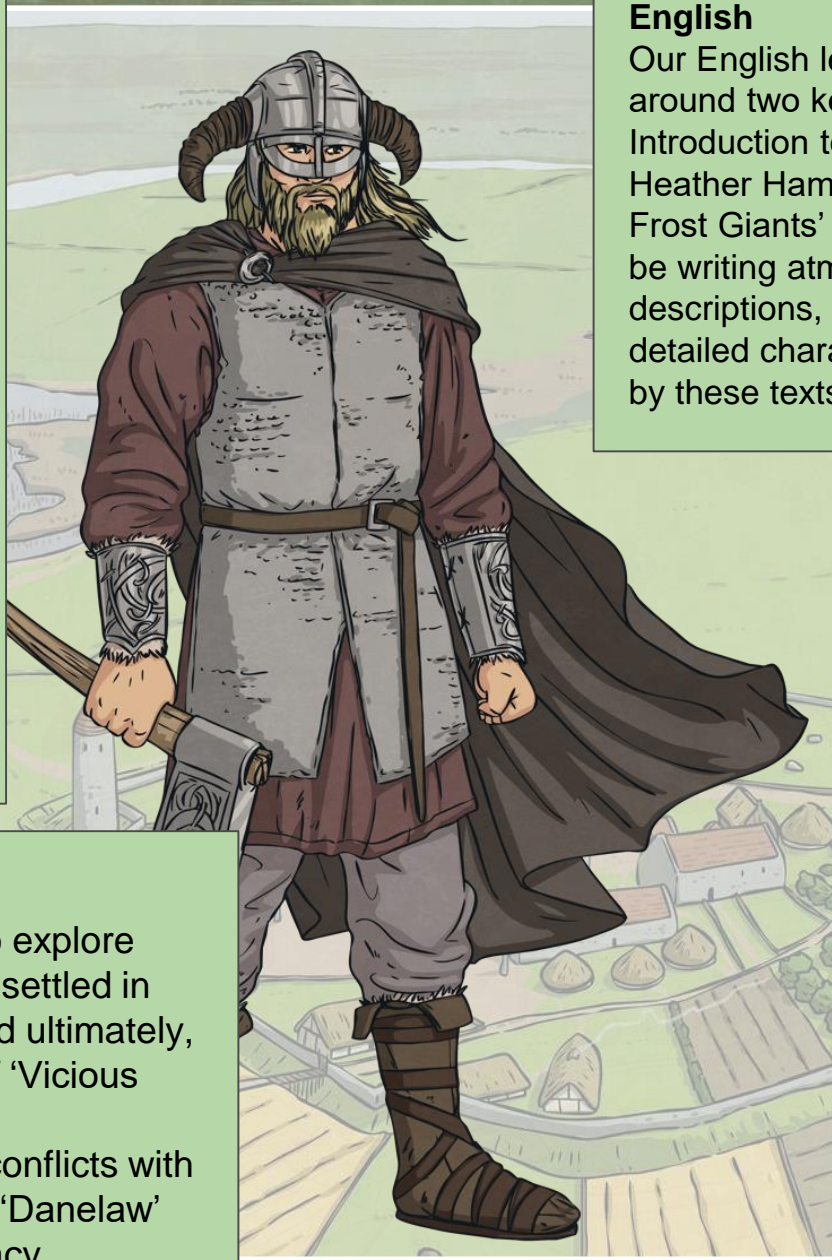
At the start of spring term, we will begin learning methods for multiplying two-digit and three-digit numbers. We will then learn how to read graphs.

In the second half of the term, we will move on to our fractions unit, which will encompass finding equivalent fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions. Finally, we will end the term by learning how to read time on analogue and twenty-four-hour clocks.

Humanities

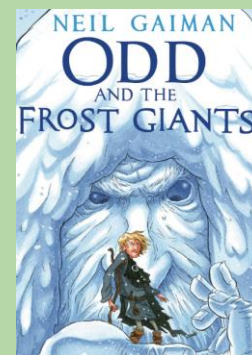
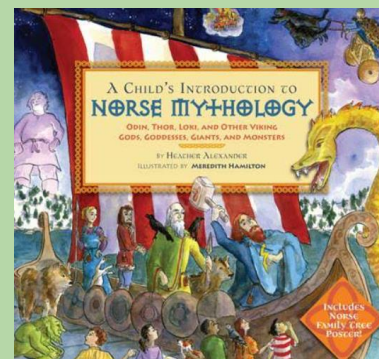
Our Vikings topic will allow us to explore who the Vikings were, why they settled in various places, their religion, and ultimately, whether they deserve the title of 'Vicious Vikings'?

We will also be looking at their conflicts with the Anglo-Saxons, the eventual 'Danelaw' agreement and their lasting legacy.



English

Our English lessons will be based around two key texts. 'A Child's Introduction to Norse Mythology' by Heather Hamilton and 'Odd and the Frost Giants' by Neil Gaiman. We shall be writing atmospheric setting descriptions, balanced arguments and detailed character descriptions inspired by these texts.



PE

PE lessons in the spring term will include a block of swimming lessons for some classes (see following page). This will happen alongside a mixture of indoor and outdoor sessions. Indoor PE will include yoga and dance. Outdoor PE will include netball and hockey sessions for **Portland Road**, and football and basketball sessions for **Holland Road**. Yoga sessions will focus on flexibility and balance. Dance sessions will focus on creating a carnival themed dance and learning 'The Twist'. Our outdoor PE (football and basketball) will focus on controlling a ball, tracking opponents and tactics.

French

Our lessons include learning about how Epiphany is celebrated in France, nouns for family members and words for parts of the face.

PSHE

We will be learning about class communities and diversity, disability equality, how to keep healthy and how to keep safe.

Computing

Spring computing lessons involve learning how to word process in Google Docs.

Science

The spring term will involve children linking their learning in music to understand the science behind how sounds are made.

Art

Inspired by the artist Chris Riddell (illustrator of *Odd and the Frost Giants*), we will be developing our drawing skills, focusing on tone, shape, proportion and texture.

RE

We will be exploring and answering the question, 'What symbols, songs and sacred objects are important to religions?'



PE will take place on the following days (please wear your PE kit to school on these days or if swimming, wear usual school uniform and bring swimming kits):

4 Amber: Thursday (PE kit) and Friday (swimming kit)

4 Sapphire: Tuesday and Wednesday

4 Blue: Tuesday and Friday

4 Red: Tuesday and Thursday

4 Green: Wednesday (swimming kit), Friday (PE kit)

4 Yellow: Wednesday (swimming kit), Thursday (PE kit)

Take Home Tasks

You can either bring these projects into class to show your classmates or upload a photograph to the Google class stream.

DESIGN and MAKE - ART, DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND MATHS

- Make a model Viking house or longboat.
- Create a detailed map showing Viking invasions and settlements.
- Create your very own catapult, Viking shield or Viking helmet (remember, they did not have horned helmets!)
- Explore Viking recipes (they loved porridge!)

RESEARCH - HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH

- Write a diary entry, in character as a Viking or an Anglo-Saxon experiencing a Viking raid.
- Research the attack on Lindisfarne. What happened and why is the attack so famous?
- Create a map showing where the Vikings settled in Europe.
- Explore the following:
- Viking warriors trained a lot for battle. Their training involved getting used to fighting when wearing chainmail armour and other protective equipment. Chainmail armour is like the skeleton of some animals. Which animals have their skeleton outside their bodies? Not all animals have a bony skeleton. Can we find out what other types of skeleton some animals have? Your skeleton is also like armour but protects organs inside your body. Which parts of your skeleton protect organs in your body?



Fortnightly home learning tasks

Children will be set fortnightly home learning tasks which they will be expected to complete by the following Wednesday. These will comprise of a spelling task, a maths task and an English based task, which may have a reading focus or a creative writing focus. We are attempting to develop pupil resilience and encourage them to take risks so even if they are unsure of an answer, we would like them to make an attempt. These tasks may be completed in the Google Classroom or on paper.

Take Home Tasks

A sheet of suggested take home tasks is included. Children can choose an activity from these to complete alongside their home learning. During this term, please try to encourage your child to complete as many of the tasks as possible in an imaginative way. These tasks are designed to be family projects where all members of the family can get involved with bringing our current topic to life at home. We would suggest that you try to complete at least two of these tasks during the term.

You could also come up with ideas of your own.

The tasks can be completed/uploaded in the Google Classroom if you wish.

Thank you ever so much for your continued help and support with your child's learning.