

Maths

We will continue investigating the operations of multiplication and division, and will move on to relating them to the perimeter and area of different shapes. Then, we will use our knowledge of multiplication and division facts to help us learn about fractions.

History

By investigating the Anglo-Saxon and Viking way of life, we will be comparing two significant periods in British history that had a great impact on the make-up of the inhabitants on the British Isles.

English

Our work in English will be based on writing a diary entry and play script linked to our History topic of the Vikings and Anglo Saxons. We will then complete a unit of learning based on the comic book, Traction Man Is Here, with the children having the opportunity to create their own episode for Traction Man's adventures. We will also be preparing and submitting our entries for a writing competition.

Computing

This half term we are going to be using the Purple Mash programme Logo to learn a form of coding.

RE

We will explore the question: Is Easter a festival of new life or sacrifice? and investigate it in relation to death and burial.

Year 4 Spring Term 1

Smashing Saxons v *Vicious Vikings*

Science

The children will develop vocabulary for describing sounds and will be able to identify different sound sources. They will learn about how vibrations are connected to hearing, and that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. They will also explore ways to change the pitch and volume of sounds.

Music

We will be learning the song 'Lean on Me', using the music and lyrics to explore ideas of friendship and support.

MFL

Continuing to learn Spanish, the children will be learning the names of shapes, animals and body parts.

PSHE

The children will be examining the themes of community, inclusion and integration of all children and families within our society. They will focus on what this looks like in our school.

PE

Throughout the Spring term we will be having weekly swimming lessons at the St Neots' swimming pool. In games lessons the children will also be focusing on invasion games.

Art

In art we will be focusing on drawing and sketching techniques by studying the work of the artist Leonardo Da Vinci. Making links to our History topic we will also look at examples of Viking art.

Aquila and Cygnus Class

We hope you will have some opportunities to rest and relax over the festive period and that your children will be ready for a fun and productive half term of learning. As always we will be available at the classroom door at the beginning and end of the school day if you need to speak to us or have any concerns. If you have any queries at any point during the year please do not hesitate to contact us or make an appointment to meet Mrs Sawford, Mrs Flack or Mrs Warne.

Homework

Homework for English and Maths is set every Monday. Homework grids are stuck in the beige or pink homework books and they are to be returned by the following Monday. The children are able to choose from a range of activities from the grids and are required to complete at least one a week, with at least one from each row completed by February half term. We will continue to set online maths activities on www.mathletics.co.uk to consolidate that week's learning. For any children that don't have internet access at home, we will ensure they have an opportunity to complete any online tasks at school.

Reading continues to be a big focus for the school. The requirement is that the children read at least 10 minutes per day, which should equate to 70 pages per week. Their reading records need to be in school every day and will be checked on a weekly basis. In the event a child does not have their reading record or if they have not met the requirements set out above, they will need to complete this in their own time. Please sign the reading record to indicate when and how much they have read at home. The children have been told to approach us before Thursday if they are having problems with any part of their homework. Please feel free to write comments in your child's book as to how you feel they coped with the tasks set.

Spellings will be set on Monday each week and will be tested on Friday. We will include a spelling sheet with homework which will have their spelling words along with ideas for how to practise learning them.

Ways in which you can help your child:

- * Check homework books and support your child in completing their homework.
- * Regularly read with your child and discuss their books with them including asking lots of questions to ensure they have a good understanding of what they are reading.
- * Test your child on their spellings and the times tables they are working on.

For the avoidance of doubt, the KS2 homework requirements are as stated in our homework policy and on the homework grids.

PE

Children must have their correct PE kit in school at all times. Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit to school on Monday and that it is taken home to be washed as necessary. Children will need **outdoor kit** (jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt, a separate white T shirt and sensible, supportive training shoes) and a **swimming costume and towel** throughout the term. All kit must be named in order to avoid a large amount of lost property.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Friday 3rd January	INSET days (Children not in school)
Monday 6 th January	Term starts
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 4 swimming lessons start
Monday 10 th February	Reading Evening (details to follow)
Friday 14 th February	Term ends
17 th – 21st February	Half term holiday
Monday 24 th February	Children return to school.