

Year 4
Spring 1
Curriculum Letter

We hope you all have a lovely time over the festive period and that your children are ready for a fun and productive half term of learning. The Spring term contains lots of exciting prospects, not least our topic for this next half term: Vicious Vikings and Smashing Saxons! As you can see from the curriculum map, we have a jam-packed six weeks ahead of us. In addition, we also look forward to starting our swimming sessions.

HOMEWORK

Homework will continue to be the weekly grid which is posted on Seesaw. It quite clearly sets out the expectation for home learning and gives the children a chance to be more independent in spreading their work over the week. As always, homework is set on a Monday and now must be uploaded to Seesaw by the following Monday. If the children are unable to upload at home they can ask to use one of the class iPads in the mornings to upload work from their homework books. Both reading and spelling activities should be daily and we encourage this regular practice. The online maths learning (Mathletics) and grid activity can be completed on any day and should take around 30 minutes. As a reminder we have included the extract from our school policy showing the whole school expectations.

Key stage 2

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Year 3/4</i>	<i>Year 5/6</i>
Daily	Reading	Minimum 10 mins	Minimum 15 mins
Daily	Spelling	Minimum 5 mins	Minimum 5 mins
Once per week	English/Topic Grids	20-30 minutes	20-30 minutes
Once per week	Maths	20-30 minutes	20-30 minutes

PE

Swimming will be on a Wednesday beginning on Wednesday 12th January 2022. Your child will need to bring a bag containing their swimming costume and towel. Please ensure earrings are removed before your child arrives at school – they are not permitted to swim with earrings.

PE will also continue to be on Thursday and the children should come to school in their PE kits. School PE kits should be worn with suitable footwear. Please remove any earrings either before the school day, or before the lesson if the children are capable of removing their own and can then put them back in independently.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 4 th January	INSET (staff only)
Wednesday 5 th January	Children return
Wednesday 12 th January	First swimming session in St Neots
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th February	Half term
Monday 21st February	Term starts (children return)

Vicious Vikings: Smashing Saxons

MATHS

We will start the half term with multiplication and division, moving on to perimeter and area. Finally, we will begin our fractions topic, which will continue into the second half of Spring Term. Alongside this, we will continually review and strengthen our number understanding and practise our times tables.

SCIENCE

The children will develop their vocabulary for describing sounds and 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.

PE

This term the children will be swimming at St Neots pool once a week. In school we will be exploring a wide variety of athletics – including speed running, jumping with control and developing our throwing techniques.

TOPIC

By investigating the Anglo-Saxon and Viking way of life, we will be comparing two significant periods in British history that have had a great impact on the make-up of inhabitants on the British Isles. As well as everyday life, we will look at the various rulers of these time and their approaches to managing crime and punishment.

ENGLISH

This half term we will continue with lots of cross curricular writing and reading opportunities. We will begin our English by reading Cressida Cowell's 'How to be a Viking' and will then be writing our own Viking stories. We will be writing some historical poetry this term too. Finally, we are planning to study journalistic reports and write a 'Day in the Life of' article.

Computing

Using LOGO, children will explore commands and language for programming. This will lead into composing algorithms for drawing shapes that are developed into code.

Music

We will explore the Viking Sagas using a BBC Schools resource.

MFL

The children will learn shapes, colour, prepositions, parts of the face and parts of the body.

PSHE

The focus for this half term is Diversity and Community. We will look at the definitions of community and what it means to us, and how we all contribute to a diverse community.

Art

During these sessions, we will explore what Viking art was inspired by and the materials used. Using similar patterns, colours and styles, we will create our own.

RE

This term we will be focusing on what the Bible is, what it means to us, what it was written for and by who, and how it can teach us about God and his relationship with mankind.

