

# Year 4

# Term: Spring 1

## Writing:

This half term, children will be developing their writing skills by practising using features such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, speech and formal language. They will then apply these skills to a newspaper report and a character description of a Viking God or Goddess.

## Reading:

In Guided Reading, we will be reading the book: How to Train Your Dragon written by Cressida Cowell.

Children will focus on the retrieval, find and copy and inference skills. These skills will not only help with their comprehension but will also help children to develop as confident, fluent readers.

## DT:

We will be using the design, plan and evaluate cycle to create a Viking shield to help us decide on whether the Vikings were raiders or settlers.

## PE:

In PE lessons, the children will be working together to choreograph and perform a class dance to a song from a famous musical.

## RE:

Through our RE sessions, we will understand the symbolism of trees in the religions of Christianity and Judaism.

## History:

Children will be studying the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor.

This is what we'll be learning this half term...

# VICIOUS VIKINGS



How do we remember the Vikings; Raiders or Settlers?

## Hook Day:

Step into Viking Life. Children will dive into Viking culture by taking on Viking jobs in a fun carousel (farmer, trader, craftsman, warrior) and learning to write their names in Viking runes. A hands-on morning that brings history to life!

## EXPRESS Day:

Raiders or Settlers? To celebrate their learning, pupils will design and decorate their own Viking shields and write a thoughtful response to the big question: "How do we remember the Vikings: Raiders or Settlers?" The day ends with a class exhibition showcasing shields and writing—an exciting way to share their knowledge and creativity.

## Maths:

As well as continuing to develop our written methods, mental arithmetic and strengthening our times tables ready for our MTCs, we will also be focussing on multiplication, division, area and fractions.

## Music:

Children will explore the song Mamma Mia, identifying the beat and using instruments to accompany the rhythm.

## Science:

In our new science unit, we will be identifying how sounds are made and recognising that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. We will look at the pitch of a sound and find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. We will also have the opportunity to make our own instruments.

## PSHE:

Dreams and Goals

We will be discussing resilience and what it means to have a positive attitude. We will also learn how to plan and set new goals even after a disappointment.

## Computing:

We are learning to understand and know how to make and use flat-file databases. We will be comparing paper and computer-based databases and learning how to use forms to record information.

# Things to explore with your child...

## PE:

Our PE days are **Wednesday and Thursday**.  
Please ensure children have suitable PE clothing (black, white and blue only) and footwear.

### Creative Zone:

- Design a shield that you could use in a battle.
- Paper mâché a helmet with a defensive design that fits your head.
- Make up a game with rules that could be played by anyone.
- Bake a feast suitable for a soldier.
- Build a junk model Viking boat using recycling from your home.
- Make a word search using the new vocabulary from this topic.



### Reading:

We promote the importance of reading and would actively encourage children to read at home four times a week.

Children will be provided with reading passports to record their reading and will visit the library each week to select an appropriate home reading book.

Try asking your child questions about what they have read so far in order to check their understanding.

We will be checking passports weekly, and children will be rewarded a dojo for each time they have read in a week (up to 5 maximum).

### Maths:

Times tables are what we really want our year 4 children to focus on this half term.

Please encourage your child to participate and play games to help your child learn their times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ .

Children are encouraged to play TTRS for 20 minutes each week.

We will be running weekly competitions between classes on TTRS, so please encourage your children to join in.

### Diary Dates:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**  
First day back after Christmas Holiday's

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
Viking Dress up Day!  
Perform for Schools will also be in with a Viking Show case .

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
EXPRESS Event

Parents are welcome into classes from 2:30pm so children can share their learning from this half term