

Year 6 Autumn 2 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back after a well-earned holiday. During the last half term, the children had been very busy learning about Black History Month and Brazil. These topics have captured the children's imagination and their learning has been fantastic!

Our new topic: 'Viking History.' We will be using the class reader, 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman throughout this half term.



We will be focusing on giving the children many opportunities to develop their independent learning skills.

They will use VIPERS skills to learn about a child, Gunnar, who swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli.

Pupils will use their inference skills to investigate how the boy's life changes when they are raided by Skuli and his Wolf Men.

Using prediction and retrieval, they will learn how unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.

The children will use this book to help them gain a deeper understanding of Vikings.

Changes to school times

Thank you for following the changes below:

- Breakfast club – in the hall from 7:50am
- Registration - 8:10am
- School gates open at 3:10pm
- Friday early closure at 12:40pm.

Promoting Fundamental British Values

We will be challenging pupils in debates where they will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the fundamental British Values below.

Tolerance

Tolerance for diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles is a hallmark of modern British society. The Vikings, on the other hand, were known for their raids and conquests, which often involved conflict with other cultures.

Children will discuss how famous/influential people of different backgrounds have influenced and shaped our history during October – Black History month.

They will also reflect on the symbolism of different religions and understand that many of their meanings and ideals are shared by all communities.

Rule of Law

British values today emphasise the importance of the rule of law and equal justice for all citizens. In the Viking era, justice was often determined through local gatherings and personal feuds. We will investigate how laws are put in place and why they are important to follow.

Individual Liberty

British society today places a high value on individual rights and freedoms. In Viking times, individual freedoms may have been more limited, and social hierarchies were more pronounced. We will look at the rights of different people during this time.

Democracy

We will look at modern British values which include a strong emphasis on democracy, with a parliamentary system and a constitutional monarchy. This system is far removed from the Viking Age, where leadership often depended on the prowess and strength of warriors and chieftains.

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Mutual Respect - Respect for others, regardless of their background or beliefs, is a core British value. In Viking society, respect was often linked to one's reputation and standing within the community.

Children will learn that the values and norms of a society can change significantly over time. The Vikings lived more than a thousand years ago, and the values and behaviours of their society were different from those of contemporary Britain.

The Viking Age was characterised by a different set of values, including loyalty to one's tribe, honour, and a warrior ethos.

The study of history allows us to trace the evolution of these values and how they have shaped contemporary British society, highlighting the significant changes that have occurred over the centuries.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

The climate and ethos enables pupils to grow and flourish, become confident individuals, and appreciate their worth and that of others.

Spiritual Thinkers

This term, we will investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views.

This unit further develops the knowledge and understanding of Buddhism, including worship practices and invites pupils to reflect on areas of faith in action in Buddhism.

The content of the unit supports pupils to understand and evaluate concepts such as values (and how they inform religious practice), symbols and commitment and service within Buddhism.

The unit also enables pupils to reflect on the significance of these concepts in their own lives.

SMSC:

Spiritual development – reflect on personal beliefs and values in response to Buddhist stories, beliefs and practices

Moral development – develop understanding of equality and social justice in response to Buddhist values

Cultural development – develop an appreciation of Buddhist heritage both globally and locally

Social development – development of transferable social skills through collaborative learning with peers

Preparation for Adult Life

This term, we will focus on health and wellbeing. Children will have the opportunity to explore the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise, hygiene, and the effects of substances like drugs and alcohol on the body.

We will address mental health topics eg. understanding and managing stress, anxiety, and emotions. We will teach problem-solving skills to help them make healthy decisions and navigate various challenges they may face.

They will be encouraged to develop positive character traits such as responsibility, respect, honesty, and kindness.

Geographers

As Geographers, we will continue to learn about the Mojave Desert. Pupils will use maps and atlases to research where the desert is located.

To help make the learning meaningful to the children of Bankfoot, they will compare our local area to the Mojave Desert and use their learning from the topic to expand upon whether they would like to live there.

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Historians

As historians, the children will be exploring a new unit – what was the impact of WW2 on British people? Firstly, the children will identify the causes of WW2. They will use a timeline to explain what happened and the significance of each of the main events.

They will identify the different phases in the Battle of Britain and make inferences and deductions about photographs. They will describe how children may have felt when evacuated and evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources.

To help make the learning meaningful, they will study how the events of WW2 changed Britain in terms of migration to the United Kingdom, and cities such as Bradford.

Writers

In Literacy, we will focus on our Literacy and language – Unit 2. This unit explores the power of imagery using the text the 'Rabbit in Mixer Survives.' The 3 additional poems (The sea, Pike and Fog) provide opportunities for exploring metaphors and similes.

By the end of the unit, the children will be able to create their own extended metaphors and have a firm grasp of how a poet creates layered images.

The children will have the opportunity to write a balanced argument for the question 'Should humans really rule the earth?'

Linking to their history – the children will explore non-fiction text and write their own non-chronological reports.

Pupils have been working hard on their handwriting. This half term we are aiming for a third of the class to achieve their pen licence.

Artists and Design Technologists

The children will focus on textiles this term, exploring the skill of sewing. We will be applying our understanding of concepts and skills by: designing a waistcoat, looking at the style, material needed, purpose and audience.

Then, the children will prepare their fabric and assemble their waistcoat using the running stitch. By the end of the unit, pupils will have designed, assembled, decorated and evaluated a functional waistcoat.

Musicians and Actors

As musicians, the children will have the opportunity to listen with concentration and understand a range of high-quality live and recorded music. They will also experiment with a range of sounds.

In Drama, the children will explore acting with objectives such as working on non-verbal communications, analysing a script and understanding the layout of the stage.

Scientists

As scientists, we will be using Developing Experts to explore light. In this unit, they will explore how light travels, reflection and how it can be used to help us see. After, they will investigate how shadows change and complete an investigation to show why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Linguists

The children will learn to express an opinion about sports and say which sports they play. They will revise the words in French for countries around the world. They will conjugate the verb 'to go' and say they or someone else is going to a country. Throughout the unit, they will orally rehearse new vocabulary. They will also learn about the French game of pétanque and have a go at playing it themselves.

The unit will end with the children writing an interview article about the Olympic Games.

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Health and Fitness Advisors

The children will continue to develop their fitness this term through a range of physical activities such as gymnastics and dodgeball.

Computer Scientists

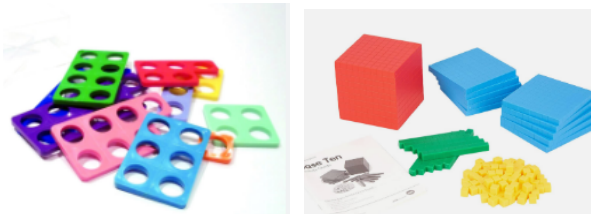
Year 6 will be introduced to creating websites for a chosen purpose. Learners identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process, learners will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.

Mathematicians

The children will recap their prior learning of topics such as number and place value; read and write numbers up to 10 million, order numbers including decimals and the four operation methods. They will explore units such as: angles in shapes and nets, fractions where they will learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide mixed numbers, proper and improper fractions and ratios.

They will use the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach to help them embed the learning. They will have the opportunity to use apparatus such as 3d shapes, Numicon and Dienes (Base 10) to develop and deepen their understanding.

Throughout the term, pupils will carry out tests to help increase and improve their fluency and understanding of mathematics.



Behaviour

We endeavour to be a school where children feel safe and happy, and always behave their very best at school, in the wider community and in all other aspects of life..

Safeguarding Speak Out Stay Safe Tell. Tell. Tell.

We want children to speak out and stay safe. In Year 6, the children are taught this and are regularly reminded to speak to a trusted adult about any of their concerns. We also have a worry box which allows children to express their feelings in a more discreet way, should they feel the need to do so.

Forthcoming events

Parents Evening

Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 November 2023.

World Science Day Friday 10 November

Residential trip to Nell Bank Monday 13 November to Wednesday 15 November 2023.

Into-Film visit Thursday 23 November 2023.

Training day Monday 27 November 2023.

Class assembly Tuesday 28 November 2023.

Close for Christmas Friday 15 December

Re-open Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Anti-Bullying Week

Let's unite against bullying, and together, we will make some noise for change!

Anti-Bullying week will take place from 13th - 17th November 2023 and has the theme Make A Noise About Bullying. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique in our own way.

Finally...

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child.