



Curriculum Information

Willow, Chestnut & Maple
Spring Term 2022



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www.swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Time Travellers: Anglo–Saxons and Vikings

Our topics for this half term are:

Science (Forces and Magnets) – Children will learn what forces are and know that some forces need contact between two objects but forces between magnets do not. Classes will enjoy experiments involving pushes and pulls and look at how objects move on different surfaces. Children will also make and test predictions about whether materials are magnetic or not and group objects on the basis of whether or not they are magnetic. Using their knowledge of magnets, children will then identify uses for them.

History (Anglo-Saxons and Vikings) – In this exciting history topic, children will learn why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and why this period is often referred to as the Dark Ages. Children will learn about the seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and find out what life was like for everyday Anglo-Saxons in the period before the Viking invasions, as well as for the Vikings who settled in England, and compare and contrast this to the Anglo-Saxons. With a local area focus in mind, classes will study the events surrounding the attack on Lindisfarne in 793 as well as subsequent Viking raids after this attack. They will learn about the battles between the two peoples and the peace treaty which was signed to give control of the North East of England to the Vikings. The reign of Alfred the Great and his many achievements will also be studied, as well as events that led to the Battle of Hastings and Norman conquest.

Art (Viking Longships) - Children will plan and sketch initial designs for a Viking Longship, labelling the parts of their ship and understanding the purpose of each (e.g. oars and sails, keel etc.) They will go on to develop ideas for how to construct their ship from visual information of real Viking longships. Children will investigate and combine visual and tactile qualities of materials and processes; matching these qualities to their ideas and designs. As part of the final process, children will evaluate their work.

Computing (Anglo Saxon / Viking Animations) - Children will plan a short animation based on a Viking saga or Anglo-Saxon myth or legend, using either stop-motion or traditional drawn animation. They will prepare images or 3D objects, either digitally or using traditional methods, before converting to a digital format, for their animation. In order to create a final piece, children will use their images/objects alongside animation software to create an animation.

Other subjects:

P.E. – Swimming & Team Games with NUF (Spring 1 & 2)

Through team games children will use running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination and competitively apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending. As part of a class rotation (please refer to parent P.E. letter) children will attend swimming sessions where they will use a range of strokes to become more confident swimmers.

R.E.

– Chestnut and Maple (Judaism)

Children will explore whether religious people live better lives. They will understand how Jews celebrate the Passover and understand different ways that Jews show their commitment to God.

Willow (Christianity)

Children will retell Bible stories when miracles have happened and question whether Jesus really did perform miracles. They will recall events in the Easter story.

French – Days of the week, colours, name and age

Children will learn the days of the week and a range of colours in French. They will also practise giving their name and age in a spoken sentence.



P.S.H.E. – Relationships Healthy Relationships, Feeling and Emotions, and Valuing Difference

Children will explore a range of emotions and what it means to have positive relationships. They will think about how their actions affect themselves as well as others and begin to understand personal boundaries and the right to privacy.

Music - Charanga: Dragon Song (Year 3) / Lean on Me (Year 4)

Children will play and perform solo and with the rest of the class using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression as well as listening with attention to detail and developing their aural memory. Children will also use and develop their understanding of stave and other musical notations, such as crochets and the musical alphabet.

English: - Letter Writing (*History link*)

- **Myths and Legends (*Beowulf*)**
- **Newspaper Reports (*Viking Sagas*)**

English involves the development of speaking and listening, drama, reading, comprehension, grammar and writing skills. Children will have a variety of opportunities to develop and demonstrate mastery within their reading and comprehension both in the classroom and during weekly guided reading sessions. They will also be able to apply their skills across other areas of the curriculum during their topic work.

During their English lessons, children will be working from cross curricular units of work, each of which will last between 2-4 weeks. Each term, children will experience a range of narrative, non-fiction and poetry texts.

Mathematics:

Children will develop and demonstrate mastery in their knowledge, skills and understanding within key areas in Mathematics: multiplication and division, fractions, measure (money Yr3, area Yr4), statistics (Yr3) and decimals (Yr4). The children's ability to 'reason' will be developed throughout all of their mathematical work as they are encouraged to explain how they have reached solutions to problems.

Homework & Spellings

Weekly Tasks: Every Monday, your child will be set a piece of subject - based homework. They will have until the following Monday to complete it. Homework tasks will be online and set through Google Classroom or Busy Things. They will be based upon what they have been learning in class in order to consolidate their new knowledge, skills and understanding.

Spellings: Spellings will be set through Spelling Frame and tested each Monday

Times Tables: Multiplication and division facts will be tested at least three times per week. In preparation for the Year 4 Multiplication check in June, please ensure your child practises their multiplication facts on a regular basis. All children have their Times Tables Rockstar logins.

Reading: Guided Reading will take place on a weekly basis. Please ensure that Guided Reading Books and records come into school every day, as groups will be taken out according to staffing and time availability, so there may not always be a set reading day. Comments can be written into reading records by school staff, parents/family members and carers as well as children. Please write comments on a regular basis and feel free to record other reading which has been done. It is important that your child reads a range of literature (magazines, books, newspapers) for at least one hour per week so please encourage them to use both the school library and local library.

Additional Information:

Wellies: We continue to ask all children to bring a pair of wellies to school for our outdoor learning adventures as well as playtimes. Please ensure that wellies are clearly labelled with your child's name and are placed in the containers.

Blog & Homework: An overview of your child's homework can be found in your child's Google Classroom which they can access from their School360 homepage.

Water Bottles: Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle with them every day so that they can have a drink during the day; particularly after breaks and after PE lessons.

PE & Swimming Kits: Please refer to the Spring Term P.E letter.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, work will be set for each class via Google Classroom. You can continue to complete online homework tasks and take extra reading opportunities. There are also games, activities and worksheets for all subjects available to help your child on our virtual learning platform, School360, and some of the best (j2e, IR and Frog Play) can be found in Resources. The BBC also has a range of age-appropriate activities for most areas of the National Curriculum, or children can hone their coding skills on Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>).