



Welcome back! We hope you've all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to the start of another busy term.

Curriculum Focus –Our topic is 'Traders & Raiders.'

We are really looking forward to some fantastic learning opportunities in our topic Traders and Raiders. We can't wait to get started! We will sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife, and fear reigned. We will find out about the life of the Saxons and meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia - never before had such terror swept the land.

Who's that waving axes and brandishing swords? It's the Saxons invading Britain's shores! During this half term, we'll start by finding out about why the Vikings choose to sail the ocean's fearsome waves. We'll write reports as an onlooker who witnessed the Saxons' landing, and we'll find out about key dates. Using online maps, we'll plot the location of shore forts and draw our own sketch maps. We'll make drawings of Saxon weaponry, homes and jewellery. When we learn about the Legend of King Arthur, we'll retell the story, and write character portraits about Alfred the Great. We'll learn about the everyday lives of the Saxons and Vikings. Using maps, we'll identify the places where the invaders came from and locate Viking invasion sites. We'll research Viking beliefs and find out about their gods.

We will discover lots about the Vikings on our **Viking Day on Wednesday 8th March**. Our special Viking Warrior visit will support our learning throughout the term by giving us some terrifying inspiration! To get into the mood for the day, **we would love everyone to come dressed as a Viking on Wednesday 8th March**. Remember the Viking helmets didn't have horns!

Over this term here are a few things to tickle your taste buds!

English Focus – We will be using the book 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell

English: In writing, we will be using 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and several genres of writing will be explored. We will be creating a dragon profile, writing recounts of different chapters, writing poetry about their own dragon and a non-chronological report. In Year 3 and 4, we will continue to develop the children's skills of planning, drafting and reviewing what they have written. The children will learn to identify the audience for and purpose of their writing. They will also be learning to use grammar appropriately. In their non-fiction writing, the children will complete report writing based on the arrival of the Saxons, design character profile/biography – about characters from 'How to Train Your Dragon' write a recount based on the Legend of King Arthur, we will also look at historical narrative.

We will build on our existing reading skills with a focus on consolidating our decoding, prediction and retrieval skills as we read '**How to Train Your Dragon**' before developing our prediction and inference skills through imagery, drama and short texts linked to our learning. We will be summarising key points, investigating language and vocabulary. We will be continuing to develop our ability to retrieve information from a text to answer questions, when reading for meaning and understanding.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: This term there will be a focus on developing the clarity and fluidity of our sentences in writing via spelling (using our topic spellings in particular), punctuation and language structures. We will focus on ensuring our sentences are correctly punctuated consistently. We shall also build our knowledge through learning new sentence structures as well as the use of different punctuation.

Maths Focus – we will be following the National Curriculum supported by the White Rose Maths Scheme. We will continue to develop further our understanding of multiplication and division, length & perimeter and fractions with Year 4 also starting to work with decimals. Furthermore, our focus seeks to revise known multiplications while increasing our knowledge of the 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9-times table: this will be underpinned by a growing understanding of division facts and the relationship between the two this will assist the children in becoming better mathematicians.

Drinks

Just a reminder that **only** still water should be sent into school in plastic bottles please. Juice, sparkling or flavoured water should not be sent in. Your support is appreciated. Research shows that drinking plain water throughout the day helps children to work at their optimum level.

Spikey Values



We will also be working on our Spikey Values and putting a great emphasis on the development all our Spikey skills so all our children can become 'Super Spikey Learners.' We will be explaining that treating everyone with respect, thinking things through, giving everything a go, being on time and in school every day, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is incredibly important for the children to achieve their best.

P.E

Participation in P.E is hugely important for the development of health, fitness, and wider skills for learning such as resilience and collaboration. P.E days are:

- ✓ Sandpiper – Tuesday & Thursday
- ✓ Harlequin – Tuesday & Thursday
- ✓ Eider – Tuesday & Friday

P.E kits will be brought into school on P.E days left in school then taken home at the end of the week. **Please check your child's P.E. kit that all clothing and shoes still fit.** Some of our P.E sessions (Tuesday mornings) are being practiced outside so a dark pair of jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt can also be included for comfort against the chilly mornings we are still experiencing.

Healthy Break Time Snacks

Children in Year 3 and 4 are not provided with fresh fruit and vegetables through the National Fruit Scheme. So please send in a healthy snack for them to enjoy at break time to keep up their energy levels!

Unlocking the learning at home....

Reading – Children should be reading at home at least four times a week. Please listen to your child read and regularly discuss their reading with them. Regular reading aloud is vital to children's vocabulary and fluency development.

Spellings – Spellings will be posted on the Spikey Takeaway Menu. Spellings will focus specifically on the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words. Try the Spooky Spellings game to support the learning.

<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/spookySpellings/index.html>

Times Tables - Children must know **ALL** their tables by the end of Year 4 so any chance to recite them with your child is great. We will be working on all tables across Year 3 & 4. Not just 3x4 but 4x3 and $12 \div 3 = 4$ and $12 \div 4 = 3$. We will be practising these using songs and practical activities.

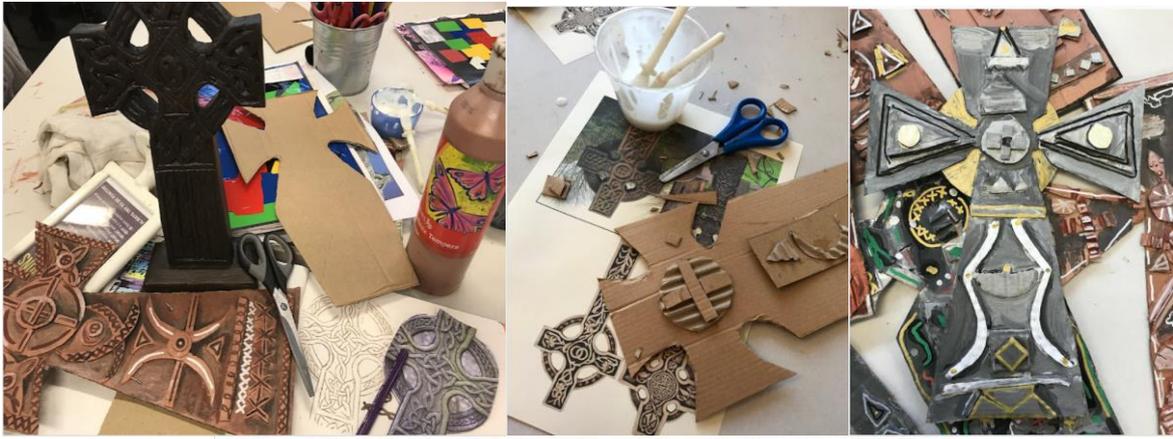
The children in Year 4 **will be participating** in the Government's Multiplication Screening Check this during the **Summer Term 23**. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents-text-version--2>

Times Table Rockstars - is the perfect way to help prepare the children for the Multiplication Screening Check. Please log on to Times Tables Rockstar - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

Spikey Takeaway Menu – will include a selection of work across different subject areas to be completed over a 2-week period.

Home Learning Projects – After the resounding success of the fabulous mountains we received we would like to put out a new Home Learning Project. This homework is set over a longer period and gives your child a choice in how they want to extend their learning. We have received some fabulous examples of home learning projects in the past and are very much looking forward to what the next few topics bring. This term the homework is to create and make their own **3D Viking pattern based on the ideas below. Please return the Home Learning Project to school by Monday 13th March.**



Help your child prepare for their project

Watch out – the Saxons and Vikings are invading! Why not visit your local library together to see if there have been any Saxon or Viking invasions in your area? You could also find out more by visiting your local museum to explore Saxon and Viking connections further. Alternatively, read books and watch films together based on the topic. Alternatively, read books and watch films together to gain an insight into this period, such as *The Saga of Erik the Viking* by Terry Jones or *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo.

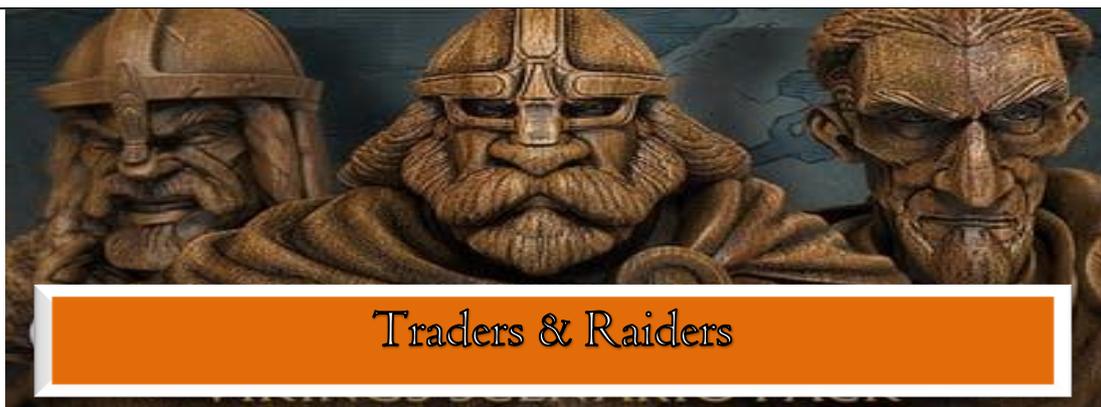
Finally, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful term, for you and for our whole school community. Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs Marsh-Ballard, Miss Ward and Miss Waterfield



Traders & Raiders Topic Overview

Term 4 - Year 3 and 4



English	<i>During this term we will be reading How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell. Throughout the term we will be focusing on several genres based around the book and the topic.</i>
Maths	<i>In maths we will be following National Curriculum guidelines supported by White Rose. Looking at the areas of multiplication & division, length & perimeter and fractions & decimals.</i>
Geography	<i>In geography we will use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries. We will describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including types of settlement and land use, economic activity and trade links.</i>
Art	<i>In art we will be looking at Viking patterns and jewellery. We will use our sketch books to design a Viking pendant and then create it using clay and beads.</i>
History	<i>In history, we will use a range of historical resources to find out Learn about Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons. We will learn about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England.</i>
RE	<i>In RE we will be focusing on Christianity We will be looking at the importance of Lent for Christians.</i>
Computing	<i>In computing we will be learning to select the most appropriate software to use to complete a task. Identify the key features of a word processor. Apply the key features of a word processor to format a document for purpose.</i>
PSHE	<i>In PSHE this term we will be following the Jigsaw unit- Healthy Me. We will be finding out how to keep our mind and bodies healthy.</i>
PE	<i>We will be working on team games and practising the skills of throwing, catching and passing. We will then move into thinking tactically using the skills in a game situation.</i>
Science	<p><i>In science we will be working scientifically to set up simple practical enquiries, make systematic and careful observations. We will use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions and suggest improvements. We will also be working on plants and finding out about:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>✓ Parts of a flowering plants and understand their functions.</i> <i>✓ What plants need to grow - linked to - MRSGREEN</i> <i>✓ The way in which water is transported within plants</i> <i>✓ Life Cycle and seed dispersal.</i>