



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break with your families over the holidays. We have a busy and exciting Spring term planned for Year 4. This newsletter summarises the curriculum we will be covering this term:

Maths

We will be building on our understanding of place value, counting forwards and backwards in different sized steps, to include negative numbers; developing mental and written calculation methods in all operations, using estimation and inverses to check our answers; estimating, comparing and calculating using different measures, particularly weight and money; telling the time; identifying and sorting 2D shapes; and building on our understanding of fractions and decimals.

Literacy

We will be writing explanations of our own *Cracking Contraptions* for Wallace and Gromit, using the book *Until I met Dudley* to explore the language features of explanation texts. This also links to our science topic of electricity, as we will be writing explanations for the burglar alarms that we will be designing and making. We will be exploring Viking sagas and Myths and Legends, linking to our history topic and will be writing newspaper reports of Viking invasions, considering bias and viewpoint.

Reading

We will continue to develop the reading skills of **R**etrieval, **I**nference and discussing an author's **C**hoice of language in our daily RIC reading sessions in class. Thank you for hearing your children read, as well as taking time to read to them. Both activities make a real difference to children's writing, as well as to their ability to read well. We would also like to extend a special thanks to parents who have been able to come into school to hear readers. Please remind your child to bring a reading book into school every day. They should change their own books in the library as needed.

Topic

Our topic this term is Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will be looking at a range of evidence and considering big questions such as:
Was Alfred really Great?
Whose land is it anyway?
How do we know what actually happened in the past?
Were all Vikings bad? Were all Saxons good?
If you have any relevant artefacts, books etc. which you don't mind sending to school, we'd be delighted to share them with the class. Year 4 will be performing a play linked to this topic towards the end of the Spring term. (30th March)

Personal, Social and Health Education & R.E.

We will be developing mindfulness as part of our Well-being month. In RE we will be focusing on the concept of Freedom and will also be exploring the symbolic meaning of religious artwork.

Science

Our topic is: electricity. We will be constructing electrical circuits and investigating how to vary the brightness of bulbs. We will also be designing and making a burglar alarm, linked to DT.

P.E.

Indoor PE is gymnastics and outdoor PE is Tag rugby.

Gentle reminder:

Please ensure your child's kit is named and contains jogging bottoms for outdoor P.E. during colder weather. Please refer to the website for the correct kit list:

<http://www.weekeprimary.com/parents/schooluniform.php>

Computing

Our focus this term is safe internet searching. We will also be creating a graphical representation of a Viking settlement and exploring some aspects of simple programming.

Art, Music, Design and Technology

Hampshire Music Services will be running whole class Clarinet lessons for all Year 4 children on Wednesday afternoons. The children will perform to you before Easter; details to follow nearer the time. In art we will be exploring Anglo Saxon design, particularly the "Winchester Art" style. We will be designing pots, weapons & jewellery.

Trips and Educational Experiences

Both Year 4 classes will be taking part in a fencing class, as well as participating in a Life education workshop, as part of our Well-being month. In addition to this, we are hoping to arrange a trip relating to our topics this term - details to follow.

Weekly Homework will be sent home and handed in on **Wednesdays**.

It will comprise of:

- spellings
- maths key facts
- daily reading (independently or to an adult)

Following on from the success of the Home Learning projects that the children completed so enthusiastically on World War II over the summer holidays, we are also encouraging children to produce a **Home Learning project** relating to our current topic. Ideas for topic related tasks will be sent home as a topic jigsaw which we will explain to the children.

Please refer to the school website, for literacy and maths websites.

Key Dates

Parent Consultation Evenings - March 7th & 8th

Performance to parents - Thursday 30th March at 2pm and 6pm year 4

Just to clarify the arrangements for Maple and Cherry class teachers for the rest of the academic year are as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maple Class	Mrs Thompson	Mrs Thompson	Mrs Tivey*	Mrs Thompson	Mrs Thompson
Cherry Class	Mrs Smith	Mrs Smith	Mrs Glynn (am) Mrs Tivey (pm)	Mrs Glynn	Mrs Smith

Wednesday pm: Both classes have Mrs Tivey one session and a Hampshire Music Service teacher the other session.

We look forward to meeting with you again at our Spring parents' evenings. However, please do come and see one of us if you need to discuss any issue before then.

Many thanks,

Mrs Judith Thompson, Mrs Mandy Smith & Mrs Jayne Glynn

The Year 4 Team

