

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This newsletter will provide you with an overview of what your child will be learning through engagement and enquiry over this half term.

Year 5/6

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that 2022 will bring you happiness and peace. The children have returned to school wonderfully and most of them are tackling new learning with relish. However, a number of the children do seem to be very tired and unable to concentrate so please help us by making sure they are getting enough sleep and are ready to learn in the mornings!

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge for this period will be “Were the Dark Ages really that dark?” and much of our learning will be directly linked to this. Our history studies this half term will focus on the Anglo-Saxons and their lives and inventions. We will be visiting West Stow Anglo-Saxon village which will provide us with an opportunity to engage in and experience life as the Anglo-Saxons would have. In English we are studying Anglo-Saxon legends and will write our own sagas based on Beowulf and the Grendel.

English (Year 5 and 6)

We will follow the National Curriculum for Y5 and 6 and develop the children’s knowledge and skills in reading, writing and spelling / grammar. The children will study a version of the poem of Beowulf which has been rewritten by Michael Morpurgo. We will write our own Anglo -Saxon saga and use our writing skills to transport our readers back to a time of heroes and monsters. We will also be studying other legends and poems in our reading lessons to complement our main text.

In order to support the children to develop their reading stamina and pace we will be reading in small focused groups every afternoon as well as our whole class guided reading sessions every day.

Reading for Pleasure

As a school we are promoting reading for pleasure and you are a huge part of this. The Open University states that

‘Children need support to develop the habit and love of reading. Three core strategies that support readers are

- ★ Reading Aloud
- ★ Time to read as a family
- ★ Book chat

So ‘just relax and read’. Time and space to hear stories and to read and talk informally about what you’re reading makes a difference to children’s pleasure in reading.’

More information about the reading for pleasure project can be found at

Maths (Year 5)

Our studies will focus on fractions, decimals and percentages. This will include comparing and ordering fractions, adding fractions, multiplying fractions by whole numbers and converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. All children in year 5 will be supported in small teaching groups for maths so learning can be more targeted and focused as we fill gaps created by COVID-19.

Maths (Year 6)

Year 6 have a lot to do this half term to prepare for being secondary ready. We will complete our work on fractions and learn to multiply, divide, add and subtract mixed and improper forms as well as how to work out fractions of amounts. Then we will focus on decimals and percentages and their relationship to fractions. They will convert between all three forms and work out percentages of amounts. They will also revise shape, space, measurement and direction. All children will be supported in a smaller teaching group in Y6 as we fill gaps created by COVID-19.

The wider curriculum linked to our Learning Challenge: ‘Were the Dark Ages really that dark?’ This is a history based learning challenge and the theme is innovation. . The children will

- understand how the use of metal for decorative purposes was an innovation
- understand the changes and innovation towards written laws and the effect that this had on Anglo-Saxon society
- understand the innovation of written stories and poems through studying Beowulf
- know how Anglo-Saxon words are still used today
- understand how Anglo-Saxons honoured their dead through studying Sutton Hoo and how this contributes to our historical understanding of this period

KEY VOCABULARY: Angles Anglo Saxons archaeological evidence archaeologist armoury barbarian bretwalda Britons bronze burh Celts conquer dooms hoard hundred court illuminated text kingdom legend loot oath-helper Old English ordeal Picts raiders Romans settlement Viking

Helpful Websites for that extra bit of engagement in learning....

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons/>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/anglo-saxons>

Other subjects within the wider curriculum

Art: This term we will consolidate our skills in drawing and painting through the topic of the Anglo-Saxons. The children will explore the use of sketchbooks to develop and extend their ideas.

RE: This term we will focus on Sikhism and explore their ideas and beliefs. This will include exploring the Sikh belief about God and some stories told by Guru Nanak.

Music: This term we will continue to learn and talk about the inter-related dimensions of music with a focus on Dynamics, Tempo and Timbre. We will listen to and discuss different styles of music including Pop, Jazz, Film , Disco, Folk, African, Rock, R & B and Orchestral. We will sing songs with a variety of structures and rhythms in unison and in simple parts. The children will continue to develop their improvising and performing skills when playing a range of percussion instruments. Our focus instrument this term is the ukulele. They will have the opportunity to compose music and will record their work using graphic symbols and rhythm/stick notation.

PSHE: We will learn to develop friendships, resolve conflicts and explore how to work in a cooperative

manner.

PE and Healthy Lifestyles: In PE the children will learn and develop new skills in the team sport of Netball and create dances in the style of folk dancing. Children will also look after their mental health in regular well-being sessions.

Computing: Children will design and create a non-linear presentation to create their own 'Choose your own adventure' game.

Useful Information

Home Learning: Will usually be set on a Friday and will be due the following Wednesday. All children need to read daily please to develop skills and build stamina.

PE kit: Needed in school all week please. Children need shorts, jogging bottoms / leggings, t-shirt, jumper/hoody and suitable footwear. PE will take place outside. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so children must be able to remove their own.

Colder and Wetter weather: Please ensure your children have a warm coat and sensible shoes (possibly wellies) so that they can enjoy time on the field at break and lunchtimes. ONLY children with a change of shoes (separate from their PE kit will be allowed on the field).

Useful websites- for both children and parents

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk> (Keeping your child safe online)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> (Keeping your child safe online)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk> (Keeping your child safe, also excellent source of information for children on a range of issues including peer pressure, relationships and keeping themselves safe)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> (Support for all subjects including maths and English)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/> (Support in finding books for your child to read at home)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10> (Mental maths practise)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> (Quick fire mental maths practise)

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/parents-and-carers/> (Information about the dailymile for parents and carers)