



Y4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2023

Welcome to the start of a new school year! Our Year 4 team this year is: Miss Batt (4A) and Mrs Reyad(4B).

We have so many exciting things planned and are looking forward to working with your child, exploring the world of Vikings, map reading, conducting scientific experiments to see how quickly teeth can decay, creating fabulous pieces of artwork, as well as producing healthy snacks and so much more. It will be a packed timetable taking us right up to Christmas.

Also, Year 4 is the year in which there will be a statutory test on their multiplication knowledge so children will be expected to practise their times tables on a daily basis – more information about these tests can be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>.

Year 4 Expectations

The children are expected to bring their reading book and reading record book into school each day.

Children are encouraged to bring a labelled water bottle for the classroom each day (not juice).

Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. **Trainers** are not allowed.

All items must be labelled.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly. This will include spellings to learn, Doodle Maths and an English grammar activity. All children should be practising their reading, spellings and times tables on a daily basis.

As an additional challenge, please encourage your child to complete some of the projects on the Invasion project board and bring them in to show us as soon as they are completed.

Dates

- * W/B 11th September – After School Clubs start
- * Friday 22nd September – Jeans for Genes Day
- * Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages
- * Friday 29th September – Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
- * W/B 2nd October – Black History Week
- * Thursday 5th October – Parent Council Meeting
- * W/B 9th October – Test Week (Years 2 – 6)
- * Monday 9th October – Flu vaccines
- * Mon 16th/ Weds 18th October – Parents' Evenings
- * HALF TERM – Mon 23rd – Friday 27th Oct
- * W/B 30th October – World of Work Week (KS2)
- * Friday 3rd November – PTA Fireworks
- * Friday 10th November – Remembrance Service
- * W/B 13th November – Anti Bullying Week
- * Monday 13th November – Individual Photos
- * Friday 17th November – Children in Need
- * W/B 20th November – Stay and Learn
- * Thursday 23rd November – Parent Council Meeting
- * Friday 1st December – Pantomime
- * Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day
- * Friday 8th December – PTA Christmas Fair
- * Monday 18th December – Breakfast with Santa
- * Tuesday 19th December – Holy Cross Church BREAK UP at 1.30pm
- * Thursday 4th January – Return to School

PE

Please make sure that your children have the correct PE kit (shorts and PE polo shirt) along with the PE sweatshirt for cooler days. As always, can you please ensure that **ALL** PE kit is named. PE is on a **Thursday** in Year 4 this year. 4A will be swimming for the first half of the year, followed by 4B from February half term onwards.

Invasion

Big and strong, powerful and brave, the Saxons wave their battle axes and brandish their swords as they begin to invade Britain's shores. Sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. Find out about the lives of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from. Meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia – never before had such terror swept the land. Are you ready to shine a light on the dangerous and deadly Dark Ages?



Interconnected World



This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about compass points and four- and six-figure grid references. They learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National

Rail and canal networks. They conduct an enquiry to prove a hypothesis, gathering data from maps and surveys before drawing conclusions.

Home Learning ideas:

<p>Crafts and Creations</p> <p>Look at images of Anglo-Saxon coins. Can you design a coin? You could draw a picture or use modelling clay or other materials to make your coin look like metal - use your imagination!</p> <p>Do some research about Viking names and their meanings, and make up some suitable Viking names for your friends and family. Remember to describe something about each person's appearance or characteristics.</p> <p>Research some simple Viking embroidery patterns. Using a needle and coloured threads, embroider a small handkerchief. Maybe you could give it to someone as a present?</p> <p>Look at animals in Viking art (search online for the <u>Ulfnes</u> or <u>Jellinge</u> styles). Can you design and draw an imaginary beast to make a fantastic pattern?</p>	
<p>Home Learning Ideas!</p> <p>Invasion – YEAR 4</p>	<p>Clothing and Cuisine</p> <p>Try making Anglo-Saxon bread or Viking flatbread (search online for recipes).</p> <p>Dress up in a typical Saxon or Viking costume. Are you a farmer, warrior, child or tradesperson? Red and gold were favourite colours, but poorer people might not have been able to afford to dye their cloth. Take photos and make a collage!</p>
<p>Runes and Rhymes</p> <p>Look at King Alfred's pledge: 'I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works'. Write a pledge - how would you like to be remembered in the future?</p> <p>Find out more about the Futhork alphabet (also known as the runic alphabet), used by the Vikings. Write a short message using the runic characters. Vikings wrote on wood, bone and stone. What will you use?</p> <p>Imagine you are a Viking skald or poet. Create a poem to sing the praises of a friend or family member.</p>	<p>Treasures and Trespassers</p> <p>Find out about real treasure (often known as hoards) discovered from this period. Sutton Hoo and the Staffordshire Hoard are good examples. You might find information on hoards close to your school. However, exact locations are often kept secret. Can you think why?</p> <p>Visit your local library and find out about any Saxon or Viking invasions in your local area or county.</p>

This term we will be learning:

Maths	This Autumn term, we will learn about place value, comparing numbers up to 1,000, Roman numerals and solving word and number problems with the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The term will also include measurement of lengths (mm, cm, kilometres, miles).
English	Children will be reading two exciting books – Varjak Paw and How to Train Your Dragon, as well as poetry by Edward Lear and non-fiction texts relating to their topics. Alongside these texts, the children will be using a range of grammar techniques to help improve their writing skills. For example, using expanded noun phrases, ambitious adjectives and verbs, varying sentence starters with fronted adverbials and using speech to show character's feelings. We will also explore language used for non-fiction.
Art & Design	Contrast and Complement This project teaches children about colour theory by studying the colour wheel and colour mixing. It includes an exploration of tertiary colours, warm and cool colours, complementary colours and analogous colours, and how artists use colour in their artwork.
Design Technology	Fresh Food, Good Food This project teaches children about food decay and preservation. They discover key inventions in food preservation and packaging, and then make examples. The children prepare, package and evaluate a healthy snack.
Computing	The children will explore computer safety, develop better understanding of the components of a workstation and networking, coding and designing using IT.
History	Invasion This project teaches children about life in Britain after the Roman withdrawal. Children will learn about Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions up to the Norman conquest.
Geography	Interconnected World This project teaches children about compass points and four- and six-figure grid references. They learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National Rail and canal networks.
Science	Animals, including Humans This project teaches children about the human digestive system. They explore the main parts, starting with the mouth and teeth, identifying teeth types and their functions. They link this learning to animals' diets and construct food chains to show the flow of energy. Sound This project teaches children about sound and how sounds are made and travel as vibrations through a medium to the ear. They learn about pitch and volume and find out how both can be changed.
Music	The children will listen to Mamma Mia by ABBA - A timeless Pop song from the 70s. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with the well-known song Mamma Mia, children will listen and appraise more ABBA hits. They will also learn the language of music through playing the glockenspiel.

RE	We will be looking at various faiths, Hinduism/Judaism/Christians and exploring where, how and why people worship.
PSHE	The children will look at 'Being me in my world' and build on their understanding of how democracy works in school, how their actions affect themselves and others, having a voice and knowing who is in the school community, the roles they play and how the children fit in.
PE	In the first half of the Autumn term, the children in 4B will learn to warm up and cool down after exercise with yoga moves, retain concentration and practise perseverance and resilience in sprinting techniques. Later in the term, they will pass a ball and move into space while shielding a ball from an opponent and keeping control using both hands and feet. They will learn to work as part of a team as well as compete under pressure. As the weather cools, the children will be taking part in indoor athletics, testing their foot-eye co-ordination and spatial awareness. 4A will be starting swimming lessons at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre.
Spanish	Aprendo Espanol (I'm Learning Spanish) This unit introduces Spain as a country and other Spanish-speaking countries. It teaches the children how to ask and answer the questions 'How are you?', 'What is your name?' etc. and introduces numbers 1 to 10 along with ten colours.

If you have any questions about your child's learning (see below), please feel free to contact us at:

year4@harrowlodgeprimary.com