

Autumn Year 4 – HERNE HISTORIES

Saxons vs Vikings

Herne Junior School

Description/Theme Intent:

An historical and geographical overview of the Saxons and Vikings covering invasions, their life from raiding, to trading and settling; their beliefs, and building a chronological understanding of where they are placed in British History. Furthermore, the children will gain an understanding of their cultures, empires and what they introduced to Britain and how they have shaped modern day Britain.

Curriculum Hook

Hidden Treasure! A message is delivered stating treasure has been hidden in the Iron Age Round House in the school grounds. A live battle between a Saxon and a Viking takes place to decide to whom the treasure belongs. *Who does it belong to?* The children's quest is to search for clues to formulate questions and answers about the mysterious treasure. English Writing Hook - The teachers find themselves transported back in time to Viking land. The children must write about the problems and adventures they face. The children will also visit the open-air museum 'Butser Ancient Farm' to see reconstructions of Saxon and Viking buildings and experience what life was like back in those times.

Quality Text / Whole Class Reader:

WCR text – Odd and the Frost Giants – Neil Gaiman, Viking Boy – Tony Bradman, The Littlest Viking – Sandi Toksvig, How To Train Your Dragon- Cressida Cowell, The Saga of Erik the Viking – Terry Jones, National Geographic – Vikings for kids, Viking world – The Age of Seafarers and Sagas – Robert Macleod, Thorfinn the Nicest Viking – David MacPhail, Norse mythology Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki – Kevin Crossley-Holland.

Links to being a British and Global Citizen:

Learning about some of the harsh, and sometimes violent nature of Saxon and Viking culture, children will appreciate the safer, fairer, democratic, more peaceful values at the heart of modern day British culture.

Links to SMSC, RRR and HARMONY:

Cultural (SMSC) – studying new cultures and comparing and contrasting them with the children's own cultural background.

RRR - Creating Class Charters for the year. Link to the experience of a child in a Saxon/Viking community compared with Herne. What rights and responsibilities did they have? What rights and responsibilities do we have?

Life Long Learning Skills (Problem Solving, Creativity, Resilience, Independence and Collaboration):

- The children will use their problem solving skills to investigate Viking and Saxon artefacts to find out which period they are from using clues.
- They will collaborate during an exciting Saxon vs Viking dress up day.

Outcome/Impact:

The children will have gained a better understanding about Saxons and Vikings, they will create a poster using their knowledge to consider what led to the end of their rule and their lasting legacies. In English, they will also publish their story about being transported back in time using historical nouns and clues.

As readers, writers and performers, we will:

- be told of an adventure the Year 4 teachers embarked on, through the magical Viking treasure chest, and will have to investigate where and when the teachers adventure took place.
- create the details of the teacher's adventure, thinking about the opening, build up, problem and resolution to the story.
- include historical nouns and clues to show the reader when the story took place.
- create detailed settings, characters and plot.

As mathematicians, we will:

- study place value, including rounding, negative numbers and Roman numerals. (4 weeks)
- practise our addition and subtraction, including; using inverse; estimating; and word problems.
- look at measurement, including converting between different units and working out perimeters.
- continue our studies into multiplication and division, including factor pairs, formal written method (HTO X O), problem solving and reasoning.
- build on Year 3 understanding of multiplication and division, using a formal written method to calculate increasingly large numbers.

As historians, we will:

- begin this theme by thinking about the Saxons and Vikings place in British history and placing them chronologically in relation to other important dates.
- enquire and learn about the Saxons and Vikings as Raiders, Traders and Settlers.
- discover how the Vikings expanded and explored away from Scandinavia and the Saxons from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
- explore how life changed during the Saxon and Viking periods.
- learn about what made the Vikings successful sea farers and discover what everyday life was like for both the Saxons and Vikings.
- learn about the Saxons and Vikings place in British history and their lasting legacies.

As geographers, we will:

- investigate where the Saxons and Vikings came from and where their invasions took them.
- be able to locate these countries on a world map.
- explore climate and land uses and think about why these led to the Saxons and Vikings deciding to invade/settle in certain areas.
- identify changes of land use over different periods of time.

Celebrating our community

- The children will visit 'Butser Ancient Farm', an open-air museum in Chalton, where they will get to investigate Anglo Saxon buildings and learn more about their way of life in our local area. They will use the Iron Age Round House in our school grounds.