

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Autumn Term ~ Year 3&4

In order for you to feel clear about the teaching and learning intentions for the Autumn Term 2017, I hope that you find reading this overview helpful ...

The focus will be Geography and History based learning.

The children will become expert Viking Historians.

The children will be learning about the Viking period of British history, gaining an understanding what Britain was like around the Viking invasion in 793. Where the Vikings came from, why they came and how they lived.

In the course of this learning, the children will read and write stories and sagas based on Viking myths and legends. These include the "Saga of Erik the Viking" and "Beowulf". They will learn the science of forces including gravity and magnetism. They will study maps and atlases to improve the clarity of their understanding of compass directions, scale and the position of countries and places in relation to each other. Art work will include designing and creating a Viking shield, figurehead and a simple cardboard longship.

I hope that this theme will provide the children with high quality material for developing skills in English and Mathematics. Their Geographical, Historical and Artistic skills will link with other subjects across the curriculum to create an overarching 'project' theme.

English work will include descriptive, narrative and report writing, but will also include a work on poetry. All the texts we share will support the learning of subject vocabulary and help put the children 'in the place of Vikings'.

Mathematics work will involve number including place value, addition and subtraction methods. They will also be introduced to rounding and counting back beyond zero into negative numbers. They will develop effective and efficient written methods for addition and subtraction calculations to help solve word problems. There will be a **strong** focus on learning multiplication tables and deriving associated division facts. I hope that you will continue to use MathsWhizz, which will be tailored to back up what is happening in class and Times Tables Rockstars to support this.

In PE, the children will be undertaking activities with our sports provider MSP. The children will be developing ball skills, control, coordination and teamwork through football. They will also be working on development control, movement and balance in gymnastics.

*Mr. M Watson*

### Update:

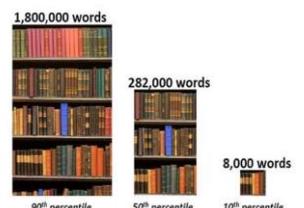
- Thank you for continuing to engage with Class Dojo to keep up to date with what is happening in school. Please check the 'Class Story' and 'Pupil Story' updates which give a window into the classroom. 'Pupil Story' allows your children and me to share photos with only their parents.
- Your child will have brought home a new Homework book, inside is their MathsWhizz & TTRockstars login – please use this resource as often as possible as it is proven to have a positive impact on children's achievement.

### Messages:

- P.E will continue to take place on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure that your child has a labelled kit in school on these days.
- For PE, can earrings please be removed and long hair **must** be tied back securely.
- Homework will be sent out on **Friday** and should be returned on **Wednesday** of the following week.
- Please listen to your child read 3-4 times a week for 10-15 minutes, it makes a huge difference to their learning.

### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year



By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?  
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)