



Class Oak Newsletter Autumn 1st Half Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the summer break; I hope you had a fantastic holiday. I am delighted to begin teaching the Year 6 children this year and we have got an action-packed half term planned. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to email me or catch me on the playground at the end of the school day (jwebb@stonerise.cumbria.sch.uk). Each morning Mrs. Sarah Smith will be working as a Teaching Assistant in our class, three afternoons Mrs. Lisa Bryne will help support our learning and one afternoon we'll be joined by Mrs. Blair.

This half term's question is:

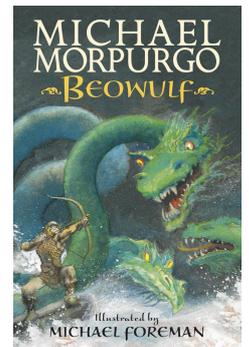
Who has invaded Great Britain in the past and what impact does this still have on us today?

During this topic we will be studying invaders and settlers who followed the Romans. We will focus on the Anglo-Saxons then onto the Vikings before the end of the half term.

English

The books we'll be using during our English sessions are linked to the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings:

- Beowulf - Using *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo the children will get an opportunity to discuss legends and the importance of heroic poetry in early European literature. They will then go on to create a number of varied written outcomes using the text as a starting point including recounts, formal letters, dialogue, descriptions, obituaries and writing their own epic, heroic narrative using various poetic devices.
- Viking Voyagers - By navigating this non-fiction text, the children will discover facts about Vikings as well as their artefacts, mythology, religions and social structures through a range of engaging activities and comprehension tasks and questions that will support their reading of the text.



Maths

As we start the year we'll be exploring place value with large numbers. We will write, order and compare numbers up to ten million. We will then recap and develop our written calculation methods. You can find the methods we use for calculating on the 'Curriculum' page of our website.

Other things to note:

- Our PE days will be Monday and Thursday so please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school.
- The children will read with myself, Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Byrne each week in school but it would be fantastic if you could read with your child at least 3 times per week and record this in their yellow Reading Records. We'll complete an Accelerated Reader assessment each half term to analyse what book range will help them make the most progress.
- I will set a spelling and Mathletics task each Monday which the children will need to complete by the following Monday. These will link to the topics we are covering in-class during the week. This should take no more than 30 minutes. Each half term I would also like the children to complete a homework project about the half term's question. I'll talk to the children about this over the coming week.
- Wherever possible, I'll send you an email each week about the homework tasks I've set and any other important updates.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

James Webb

Stonerise Sticky Knowledge

During this topic you:

- Know where the Vikings originated from and show this on a map
- Know that the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons were often in conflict
- Know why the Vikings frequently won battles with the Anglo-Saxons

Vital Vocabulary

Words you will learn during this topic:

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Danegeld	"Paying the Dane". King Ethelred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.
exile	To be sent away.
invade	To enter and occupy land.
kingdom	An area ruled by a king.
longship	A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

The Early Vikings
The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.

Anglo-Saxon Kings
The Kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. They fought to defend their kingdom or take control of other kingdoms. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

The Last Anglo-Saxon King
AD 1066 - Edward the Confessor became King. He was known as 'the Confessor' because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.

AD 1066 - Harold I tried to stop Harold of Norway from invading England and killed him in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold in the battle of Hastings (AD 1066). Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King, bringing the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in AD 1066.

Viking Life
Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.
Houses - Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.
Jewellers - Worn to show off how rich a person was.
Pagans - Vikings arrived as pagans but eventually converted to Christianity.
Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.