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January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our topic for this term is The Anglo-Saxons and we will be assessing how the differences between Anglo Saxon England at the start and end of their six-hundred-year reign. We will also be examining the reasons why people migrate.

In Guided Reading, we will be focusing on the text Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo. This is an adapted version of an Anglo-Saxon poem. We will use this book to continue to improve our comprehension skills and also to develop our skills in justifying our ideas and viewpoints through exploratory talk. In our Guided Reading sessions so far, we have also introduced the children to the concept of 'flip learning', by asking them to be responsible for reading short segments of the text outside of some lesson times, in order to prepare for the follow-up activity that will happen in the lessons. This has been a valuable experience for the children, and we will re-visit this process at other points this academic year to allow them to continue to develop a sense of time management and ownership of their own learning.

In English, we are also using the tale of Beowulf as a vehicle to develop our writing skills. We will be using an abridged model text for these sessions, and following a Talk for Writing programme that will allow the children to immerse themselves in the story through drama and talk before imitating the text and completing 'short burst' writing activities. We will then go on to innovate the text, by re-writing small extracts with some details changed, before eventually inventing our own mythical tales. In addition to this, we will be assigning spelling and grammar mini tasks, and linked handwriting tasks.

In Maths, we will be continuing with our Power Maths books, focusing on Area and Perimeter and Fractions. We will continue to set weekly MyMaths homework, and would like all children to work on their times tables – TT Rockstars logins can be re-issued if needed.

In Science, we will be investigating changes and properties of materials. In PSHE we will continue to focus on healthy living, following the focus on this during Healthy Living Week. We will be considering diet, exercise and mindfulness. In Music learning to play the recorder, which will be helpful for developing skills in playing as part of an ensemble. In French, we will be learning vocabulary for food, likes and dislikes. Our RE focus important figures in Sikhism. Our Art, Design and Technology unit this term will complement our Anglo-Saxon topic – children will be designing and making their own Saxon brooches and will also be doing some weaving.

PE this term will be on Mondays and Thursdays, so please can children continue to come to school in full, named PE kits on these days, which is suitable for the cold weather on both of these days. We will be doing yoga and rounders this term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hamilton and Miss Patience  
Year Five Class Teachers

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