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January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our topic for this term is The Anglo-Saxons and we will be reflecting on who the Anglo Saxons were and how they have impacted on our way of life today. We will be particularly focusing on the kingdom of Wessex as this is where the town of Lewes was located. We will also focus on key Anglo-Saxon figures, important Anglo-Saxon battles as well as understanding what it was like to live in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children will consolidate their learning of this topic by making their own documentaries about the Anglo-Saxons. In addition to our excursion on 18th January, we will also be having an Anglo Saxon Day in school later in the term, where children can dress up and take part in a variety of enrichment activities – there will be more information about this shortly.

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 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 fractions as well as continuing to practice the four operations and build our fluency skills with time tables. 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 through a range of practical activities that will also ensure the children practise planning and carrying out fair tests, recording their observations, and also drawing meaningful conclusions from these.

In music, we will be listening carefully to a variety of pieces from the Jazz genre. Children will learn: to identify the structure of each piece of music, including tune/head, middle section, improvised section, and verse/chorus where appropriate; to identify the instruments and/or voices used; and to identify the defining features of the Jazz genre. Children will use tuned percussion instruments (glockenspiels) to learn and play simple rhythms and tunes by listening (playing by ear) and by reading simple musical notation. They will improvise in a Bossa Nova style and in a Swing style on glockenspiels, using a range of musical patterns that they have learned in class.

This term in PSHE the children will be exploring Health and Wellbeing. This includes reflecting on their achievements for 2022 and setting personal goals for 2023, discussing the idea of failure and how it can help us to persevere, exploring and describing a range of feelings, describing how we can get a good night's sleep and explaining why this is important, exploring food groups, investigating what makes healthy meals and a balanced diet, and learning about staying safe in the sun.

In French, we will be learning vocabulary for food, likes and dislikes. In RE this term, our focus is Christianity, and we will be exploring the enquiry question 'Is Jesus the Messiah?' In Art, Design and Technology we will continue to perfect our collage techniques to produce portraits that complement our reflections on the New Year. To complement our studies of the Anglos Saxons, we will also be looking at Anglo Saxon jewellery designs and making some Anglo-Saxon inspired brooches.

PE this term will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays, it's swimming – please can children bring their kits and also ensure they have a warm, waterproof coat and appropriate shoes for walking to and from the pool. On Wednesdays, in order to be prepared for our hockey lessons outside, please can children come to school in their full, named PE kit, which needs to be suitable for the cold weather.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hamilton, Ms Callow, Mrs Johnson and Mr Darougar

Year Five Class Team