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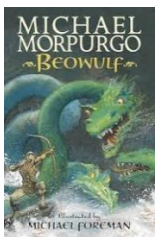
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January 2026

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 we know. 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 and 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. To enrich our learning in this topic, we will be visiting Battle Abbey – a site managed by English Heritage – on Wednesday 11th February. A letter, with permission Forms link, will be emailed about this soon.



In Guided Reading, we will be focusing on the Michael Morpurgo version of the tale of Beowulf. 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. As usual, there are enough copies of this text in class for each child to share with their desk partner. Your child is also welcome to bring their own copy of this book to school if they wish – please ensure



these are named clearly. We will also be reading extracts of the novel “Anglo-Saxon Boy” by Tony Bradman, which describes the experience of a young boy from the Anglo-Saxon nobility preparing to fight at the Battle of Hastings.

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 practise 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 – please come and see us.

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

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defining features and instruments 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 2025 and setting personal goals for 2026, 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 numbers and months. In RE this term, our focus is Christianity, and we will be exploring the enquiry question 'Why do Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah?' In Art, we will be practising our pencil drawing skills, focusing on life drawing. Once we have perfected sketching and shading techniques, and formed an understanding of sketching body proportions, we will be applying these skills to draw heroes and monsters for our Beowulf-inspired stories in English. To complement our learning about Anglo Saxons, and how they made clothes, we will also be using harvested flowers from our school dye garden to dye a variety of wools, and then weaving these on looms to create wall hangings.

PE this term will be swimming on Tuesdays. 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. Please can children with long hair wear it plaited/tied in a way that allows them to manage it easily during and after swimming on these days. We would also advise against wearing tights on these days, as shoes have to be removed to walk through the changing rooms, where the floors are often wet – socks that can be taken off are much easier to manage and keep dry. On the non-swimming days, we will, of course, continue to do the Daily Mile, which happens throughout the year in addition to our PE sessions, so please ensure your child always has suitable footwear on their feet/in their bags to ensure they can fully participate in these sessions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hamilton and Ms Callow

Year Five Class Team