



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning in Class Dove Autumn 2024

The Anglo-Saxons - Friend or Foe?

Welcome to Class Dove! It is lovely to be back in school, beginning the new academic year together. We've made a great start in the classroom already and have introduced this term's exciting new topic.

Between now and Christmas, the children will experience all areas of the curriculum linked, wherever possible, to our topic about the Anglo-Saxons. Set out below is some useful information about what we will be covering along with a few ideas about how you can support at home.

Class Routines

Reading Challenge

Children will be working on their own reading programme with the intention of completing a reading award. They are encouraged to read a variety of genres, select different authors and then respond to what they have read by writing in their reading journals. All children, however confident, would benefit from continuing to read to an adult as much as possible, as this helps with fluency and expression. Please add a comment to the journal if you hear them read.

Let's Present

Each Wednesday three children will have the opportunity to talk to their class about a chosen subject. The subject this term is 'Our Talents and Skills'. The children at Danbury Park have many talents and this will be their opportunity to share their skills with each other. Their talk should last approximately 5 minutes with a question and answer session to follow. Should the children wish to use a PowerPoint to complement their work, please use the class email address, classd@danburypark.essex.sch.uk. Where possible, these should be sent to me by the Monday of the week they are due to present their work.

Spelling and Homework

Weekly spellings will be sent home in the spelling diary and will include five of the statutory spellings set by the English National Curriculum. The diary should be brought to school each

day to enable class work to be achieved. They will be tested on these words on the following Monday.

To aid their multiplication knowledge the children will be asked to study given multiplication tables each week, which will be tested on a Monday. We would also like the children to invest time playing Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) at home, as well as completing the Mathematics challenges set, as this will support our class learning. Login details should be found in your child's reading journal, but please let me know if there are any issues logging on, or with the tasks set. Another excellent site for reinforcing their multiplication tables knowledge is www.timestables.co.uk

Class Work

Wherever possible this will be based around the title, 'The Anglo Saxons - Friend or Foe?' When learning, the children will experience different aspects about life during the period of these invaders to Britain. The areas to be studied are:

English

The children will begin the term by reading Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo, as part of our Myths and Legends study. The children will then write their own chapter to the story and later, will produce a Kenning poem. They will research the life during the times of the Anglo-Saxons for a non-chronological report, however, I am keen to award housepoints for anyone that does any additional work at home!

Maths

In our daily maths lessons, we will be focusing on: place value, addition and subtraction, as well as multiplication and division. We also complete a 'Four Calculations' session twice a week, where they will build on their resilience and speed to be able to solve +, -, ×, ÷ calculations. They will also be reinforcing their knowledge of the multiplication tables.

Science

This term we have two areas of study: States of Matter and Electricity. We will be looking at solids, liquids and gases, comparing/grouping materials together, changing state when heating/cooling and evaporation and condensation. After half term we will be constructing simple series electrical circuits, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will also be exploring simple series circuits and switches, as well as conductors and insulators.

History

The children will study the period known as the Anglo-Saxons. They will discover why they came and where they came from. Comparisons will be made with their life then and our life now. They will study the changes that occurred in England after the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, noting those that are still used today. They will study the arrival of Christianity and the impact this had on the people. The unit will end with the arrival of the Normans in 1066.

Art

In art the children will experiment with ways in which surface detail can be added to drawings. They will use sketchbooks to collect and record visual information from different sources and draw for a sustained period of time at an appropriate level. The children will work using clay to create 3D items related to the Anglo-Saxons.

Design Technology

The children will learn the art of weaving and sewing, creating a purse similar to those used during the Anglo-Saxon times. During these sessions we may be requesting parental help within the classroom.

Music

In music the children will be learning about how to notate music in different ways, starting with musical cells, using Anglo Saxon runes to represent different musical ideas. They will be using their notated music to see how they can play the cells in a different order to make it new. They will also be learning about and listening to music by the first two Composers of the Month. As the term continues, the children will add pitch to their notation skills and begin to write melodies. Finally, they will concentrate on learning traditional and new songs for Christmas.

Computing

The term will begin by looking at how to stay safe online, recognising and understanding the dangers and where to find help should it be needed. The children will create a teaching resource for other children, explaining these dangers and ways in which they can stay safe. The internet will be used for research about the Anglo-Saxons and the computers used to create an information document to display their knowledge.

Religious Education

There are two units of study this term, Hinduism and Christianity. In Hinduism they will consider the question: Would celebrating Divali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child? Within Christianity the children will consider the question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning? The children will discuss the Christian story of Christmas and look at the significant people involved.

PSHE

This term the unit of study is concerned with relationships. The children will discuss the relationships they have within the family, their school and the wider community. They will discuss ways that enable these relationships to remain positive and what they should do should problems occur.

Class Visit

We are currently looking in to booking a class visit linked to our Anglo Saxon topic and should hopefully be able to confirm more soon. More information regarding the visit will be sent home shortly.

I hope this snapshot of the things we are going to be getting up to will help you to feel you are also part of the children's learning journey and might inspire you to look out for opportunities to support the topics and themes at home. For fun, some children might want to recreate work or start their own mini project about something that has captured their interest, so please do encourage them to bring things in to share. On the other hand, if you have some interesting information, knowledge or skills about any of our topic themes and would like to offer to share this with us, please do get in touch and we will see what can be arranged! The same applies if you have any useful resources that we might make use of - it doesn't hurt to ask!

Finally, should you have any concerns about your child's learning please feel free to speak to me at the end of the day or contact me using the class email address. These emails will be checked at the end of each teaching day. Thank you once again for your continued support and we shall look forward to meeting you all at Parents' Evening.

Kind regards

Miss Lees, Classteacher

Mrs Middleton, LSA