

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 3



Welcome back!

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and we wish you a very happy new year. This term, we are starting a new topic: 'Here come the Invaders!' The topic will cover both Terms 3 and 4, with a focus on the Anglo-Saxons over the next 6 weeks, then moving on to the Vikings in Term 4. Please read on to find out what exciting things we have in store.

Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Sharp



Term 3 Topic: *Here come the Invaders!*



In English, we will start the topic by delving into the world of Beowulf and his expeditions across the Danish moors. We'll join him on his journey, using a range of drama techniques to explore the hero's brave battles with the monster of Heorot. Children will learn about the features of myths and legends and develop an understanding of the author's use of language for different effects. After the pupils have read the story, they will use their understanding to write their own Anglo-Saxon legends. Later in the term, the children will enjoy reading some Anglo-Saxon riddles before writing their own versions.

In topic lessons, pupils will begin by learning about the Anglo-Saxon invasions and their key battles, understanding the different tribes involved. Large maps will be used as groups work together to build the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The pupils will explore different types of evidence to build a picture of what life was like during Anglo-Saxon times. Then we will be looking at contrasting pieces of evidence as we consider how different perspectives can affect our interpretation of historical events. The children will also be taking on the role of archaeologists as they unearth the treasures found at Sutton Hoo. This will involve using mathematical skills to measure and mark out the size of the boat discovered at this fascinating burial site.

Our art and DT will be linked to our topic throughout the term. Pupils will be creating their very own Anglo-Saxon stained glass windows and making clay brooches using printing techniques. They will learn about the Anglo-Saxon art of weaving materials to create their own woven piece of artwork. Furthermore, we are looking forward to enjoying another visit from Diane at *Tesco*, who will be teaching the class how to make bread. This will form part of our Anglo-Saxon lunch that the children will be preparing and enjoying towards the end of the topic.

In RE, we will begin by learning about Anglo-Saxon religions and their worship of Pagan gods. We will also look at how Christianity survived in some parts of Britain during this period. Later in the term, we will move away from topic-linked RE to Christianity more generally.

During science, pupils will be learning all about sound. We will experiment with different objects and instruments and explore how these create different sounds. Pupils will learn about how sound travels, pitch and volume and they will investigate materials to see which will provide the best insulation against sound. We will then use our knowledge to create Anglo-Saxon musical instruments.

In computing, we will be using *Scratch* to look at programming and debugging. The pupils will develop their iPad skills as they present their Anglo-Saxon work throughout the topic.

Other subjects ...

Mathematics - In mathematics, we will be focusing on place value to begin with. This will build on the learning from last term, moving on to looking at place value in decimal numbers and understanding what happens to numbers when we multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. We will also be learning to solve a wider range of money problems, using our skills of expanded and compact written methods for addition and subtraction. As we move further into the term, pupils will explore different units of measurement and learn to convert between different units confidently.

PE - On Mondays, Class 4's PE will be dance. The children will learn a short dance routine before choreographing their own group dances. On Fridays, Class 4 will be swimming (see below for more details).

Music – Class 4 will be following the *Charanga* music scheme this term.

Helping your child at home ...

Homework will continue to be handed out on a Friday and it will be due in by the following Wednesday.

- **Learning Logs:**

Pupils will have learning log homework every two weeks, which will focus on a different theme – normally this will relate to topic being studied in class.

Learning log tasks are designed to be open-ended to give the children the opportunity to show their learning in a creative and individual way. A typical sequence for completing the learning log might be to research and take notes, plan the layout - deciding on what text and images to include - and then present the research in best. Please can you emphasise the importance of neat presentation and careful editing at home, as this will continue to be a big focus in class.

- **English and mathematics homework:**

Well done to those children who achieved their 'Spelling Bee' stickers last term. A new pack of spelling activities will go home this week. Just a reminder that the 'Spelling Bee' activities are intended to be used at home throughout the term and we do not expect the whole set of activities to be completed at once. Pupils will be given a 'Spelling Bee' sticker for each activity they complete successfully. 'Spelling Bee' certificates will be awarded at the end of the term when pupils have achieved 10 stickers. Please remind your child to keep their spelling bookmarks inside their reading journals so these are returned to school and updated.

My Maths will continue to be set each week. We were really pleased to see pupils were achieving highly on these tasks last term – well done! It is also important that pupils continue to practise times tables in their own time.

Please ensure your child continues to keep up the fantastic reading at home. We hope to see more children achieving the bronze reading award this term and many achieving their silver reading award too. They should be reading at least five times a week.

Class 4 information ...

Swimming - Class 4 will be starting swimming this term. These lessons will be every Friday afternoon. Please make sure children have the following: swimming costume (no bikinis), trunks (no baggy shorts), swimming cap (which can be purchased from the office) and a towel. Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery or bring talcum powder or spray deodorant.

Shoebox collection – Class 4 are collecting shoe boxes as part of our science project. Please can these be brought into class by the end of January? Many thanks.

Bread-making – On Friday 12th January, Diane from *Tesco* will be visiting Class 4 to make bread with the children.