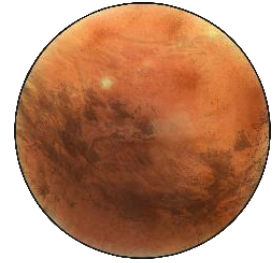


# Mars Class News

April - May 2025



Following on from our Anglo-Saxon unit last half term, we will be looking at the Saxon/Viking struggle for control over Britain. Our enquiry question in this unit is: **Why did the Vikings have a reputation as vicious raiders and is it fair to describe them as that?** It will cover the following areas:



- Who were the Vikings and why were they feared?
- How did the Saxons view the Vikings? (study of Lindisfarne)
- How did the Saxons and Vikings interact?
- Why was Alfred known as 'the Great'?
- How were the Vikings defeated and England unified?
- How did the Anglo-Saxon/Viking rule come to an end?

## Class Book:

During this term, we will be reading 'Time Hunters: Viking Raiders' by Chris Blake

## English:

We start this half term writing, performing and evaluating a breaking news script about dragons spotted in Little Eaton. We will then recount of residential to Lea Green and then finally write a non-chronological report about a new dragon species.



Alongside learning the rules and patterns of spellings each week in school, spelling lists will be sent home for children to practise as part of their weekly homework tasks. This half term, spelling lists will cover common exception words and recap on previous patterns the majority of the class are not yet secure on in their independent writing. Lists will be provided alongside the homework on a Thursday. The spelling test will be the following Wednesday.

## Maths:

This half term our focus will be on decimals. This will include:

- Representing tenths as fractions and decimals
- Representing hundredths as fractions and decimals
- Dividing a 1- or 2-digit number by 10 or 100
- Make a whole with tenths or hundredths
- Partition, compare and order decimals
- Round to the nearest whole

## Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Electricity
- PE – Gymnastics (Monday)
- Music – Charanga – Plastic
- PSHE – Digital wellbeing
- DT – Scones (linked to VE day)
- RE - What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong?
- French – On Wednesdays (Taught by Mrs Schumann)
- Computing – Microsoft Word

## Supporting learning at home:

- **Reading:** Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In Year 4, children should aim to read for at least 15-20 minutes and talk to an adult about what they have read. Children should record their reading in their reading journal. Parents are encouraged to read with children and add entries into the journal.
  - **Times Tables:** In preparation for the multiplication check in Summer 2, children will practise tables each morning using the online site maths frame.
  - Please ensure children to continue to practise at home using TTrackstars (using the sound check) or maths frame MTC check (<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> )
- **Homework:** Children will be set weekly homework on a Thursday which will be due back the following Tuesday. It will follow this **Thursday-Tuesday** pattern throughout the year. You may support your child in tasks but please ensure if they are struggling that they know they can ask us for help.
  - Children are welcome to do their homework in school, during playtime if they do not have time at home. We really don't want homework to be a source of stress or anxiety, only an extension of the children's learning at school. If your child is struggling with their homework, please stop and bring it in to school. An adult will go through it with them.

## Useful information:

**Coats:** Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Also ensure that **EVERYTHING is named!** If it isn't, we cannot return it.

**PE:** Children need to bring in a full PE kit to change in school. As the weather is changeable during this term, we recommend joggers and a jumper/hoodie in addition to shorts and T-shirts. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. In Summer 1, we will have PE on a **Monday**.

## Key Days:

Monday – PE

Tuesday – Homework to be handed in

Wednesday – Spelling test

## Key Dates:

1st and 2nd May – Lea Green trip

WB 5th May – Design and Technology project week

16th May – Class photographs

2nd – 13th June – Multiplication check window

WB 16th June – Fitness week

26th June – Sport Day (am)

Thank you in advance for your continued support,

Karen Gardiner, Jayne-Ann Dilleigh and the Year 4 team