

Penguin Class

January 2023



Happy New Year! I hope you've had a great holiday and are ready for another busy term. This newsletter aims to set out the key information to be shared about this half term. I will keep you up to date on any extra information on our class page and through text messages.

Our learning in January and February:

Following on from our Anglo-Saxon unit in Autumn 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:

This half term we are reading 'The boy who grew dragons' by Andy Shepherd.

The children are welcome to bring their own copy of the book. We will review the book when we have finished it!



English:



Our theme for this half term's English is dragons. Children will begin by writing, performing and evaluating a breaking news script. They will then create a spine poem and finally write a non-chronological report about a new dragon species.

Maths:

Our focus for this half term will include:

- Factors
- Multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100
- Column method of multiplication
- Short written method of division (bus stop)
- Measuring in km and m
- Equivalent lengths (mm, cm, m, km)
- Perimeter

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Please see the additional letter about our Year 4 times table challenge on the class page.

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Animals including humans (with Mr Read)
- PE – Dodgeball (Thursday with Mr Singh) and Swimming (Monday afternoon)
- Art – 3D form (dragon eyes)
- PSHE – Safety First
- French – (Tuesday with Madam Duncan)
- Computing – Programming

Supporting learning at home:

- **Spellings:** Spellings will be taught in school and lists will not be sent home to learn.
- **Reading:** Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In Year 4, children should aim to read for at least 15-20 minutes at home and talk to an adult about what they have read. Reading journals should be in school **every day**. I appreciate parents support in checking and encouraging children to update their reading regularly and listening to children read.
- **Times Tables:** Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a **Friday**.
 - Please ensure children to practise using TTRockstars (login in back of reading journal), hit the button (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>) 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 Wednesday which will be due back the following **Monday**. It will follow this **Wednesday-Monday** pattern throughout the year. You may support your child in tasks but please ensure if they are struggling that they know they can ask me 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.

These homework routines will remain the same throughout the year. If no homework is being set or days need to change for a particular reason, I will ensure you are informed via text.

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. I 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.

Swimming: Children will begin swimming lessons at Ripley pool on Monday 16th January. Additional information is available on the class page. A letter will also be sent home during the week beginning 9th January.

If you have any questions to ask, or have information to tell me, please get in touch via the school office (julie.carter@littleaton.derbyshire.sch.uk or 01332 831471) I will also be available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Thank you in advance for your support,



Mrs. Karen Gardiner