Year 5 Newsletter - Autumn 2

We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable October break. This newsletter is designed to give you a clear overview of what your child will be learning in Year 5 this half term. Inside, you'll find key dates, important class information, and summaries of the main areas of learning.

Timetable

Start: Gates open at 8.30am. Register 8.40am.

Finish: 3:00pm, gates close 3.10pm. Please leave the school site promptly.

Clubs: 3pm—4pm

PE Days: Thursday and Friday

Children will come into school in PE kits on P.E days.

Key Dates for the Half Term

November 5th– Flu vaccinations.

November 6th– Diwali starts.

November 11th - Remembrance day.

November 18th and 19th– TTRS competition.

November 20th– Rockstar day.

December 4th– Reports sent out.

December 18th– Last day of term (Early close)

Y5 Staff Team

5EK - Miss Kelly
Miss Javed (LSA)

5SJ– Mrs Jarvis
Miss Garbutt (LSA)

Home Learning

Home learning is an essential element of school life. It helps embed key skills and supports progress.

Homework also develops independence and organisational skills: children learn to manage their time, meet deadlines and challenge themselves.

Therefore, Year 5 children are expected to:

1) Read and sign their Reading Record daily.
2) Complete daily Times Table Rockstars.
3) Revise their weekly spelling lists (completing 2 columns in their spelling record as a minimum).
4) Complete the homework task in their homework book (approximately 30 minutes). This should be handed in each Wednesday and will be sent back out on Fridays.

Haydon Abbey School and Pre-School

Year 5: Autumn 2 2026/7

Our Text:
Beowulf
by Michael Morpurgo





P.E Days:
Thursday Afternoon - Indoor P.E: Dance
Friday Afternoon – Outdoor P.E: Netball

Computing: Strategic searching online
In Autumn, Year 5 will learn about being a good digital citizen and how to search effectively online.

DT- Pop -up books
Children will learn about the mechanisms involved in pop-up books and will use this knowledge to develop a short story of their own which they will then turn into a book.

Music
We will be look at the history of Blues music, listen to and interpret music as well as learn to play a 12 bar blues.

Spanish
Children will learn and practice saying items available on a Spanish menu and know about the Spanish tradition of menú del día.

P.S.H.E: Celebrate
Children will learn how the 24 character strengths are organised into 6 key virtues of wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, temperance and transcendence. They learn how these strengths can be used in different ways and how using them will increase Dopamine levels (happy hormones) and reduce Cortisol levels (stress hormones).
Don't forget the parent app for more information and suggestions on how to help at home.

History:
Enquiry Question: Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?
In this unit, students will:
Explain where the Vikings came from and why they invaded Britain.
Sequence events according to their significance for groups of people.
Find evidence and make inferences from sources.
Name Viking trade routes.
Explain why trade routes were important to the Vikings.
Identify the differences between Viking sagas.
Evaluate the impact of Viking achievements.

Key words: exchange, trade route, Anglo-Saxons explorer, invaders, raiders, settlers, traders, Vikings, balanced viewpoint, impression, inference, Jorvik, observation, primary source, secondary source

Maths:
Year 5 will continue to deepen their understanding of fractions and statistics this half term, focusing on the following skills:
- Recognising equivalent fractions
- Adding mixed numbers
- Drawing and interpreting line graphs

Lessons will embed key procedures whilst also applying concepts to a range of problems. Maths fluency will be practiced daily.

Please encourage your child to complete TTRS daily!

Reading:
We will immerse ourselves in the legend of "Beowulf", which retells three stories from the epic poem. Our Reading Lessons will provide opportunity for the children to analyse the text closely. We will continue to focus on the key elements of reading, prioritising the Reading VIPERS: vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve and summarise and using a Master Readers approach.
Please encourage your child to read at home each night to embed these skills further.

Writing:
The children will be writing a range of fictional pieces such as letter writing and a newspaper article description. This will lead up to writing a legend narrative.

Science:
Materials: Properties and Change
Students will deepen their learning about materials and why materials are selected for different objects based on their properties. They will investigate factors—such as conductivity and transparency—that contribute to their usefulness.
Key words: insulator, conductor, opaque, translucent, transparent, reversible change, irreversible change.

Curriculum Overview

Knowledge organiser– History

History - Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

achievement	A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.
balanced viewpoint	Considering all views in a fair way.
exchange*	Giving something to someone and receiving something in return.
impact	The effect or change something has on a person, place or situation.
impression	An idea, feeling or opinion about something.
Jorvik	The city now called York.
oral tradition	The passing of stories and poems by word of mouth from one generation to another.
saga	A long story of heroic achievement found in Norse literature.
stereotype	A fixed idea about a group of people that is often not true.
trade route*	A long-distance route along which items are transported.
Vikings	A group of Scandinavian people who lived between the 8th and 11th centuries.

*key vocabulary

Traders

Using longboats, the Vikings established trading routes throughout Europe and as far as America, Iraq and Jerusalem. They sold items like timber, wheat, wool, fur and fish; and exchanged them for silver, spices, wine, jewellery, silk and glass.





Raiders

The Viking raids of Britain started in AD 793 when Lindisfarne's monastery was attacked. In general, the Vikings raided in the summer when it was easier to cross the sea. They stole valuable items from monasteries and villages, and they enslaved people before returning home. For the Vikings, raiding demonstrated bravery - a characteristic they valued highly.



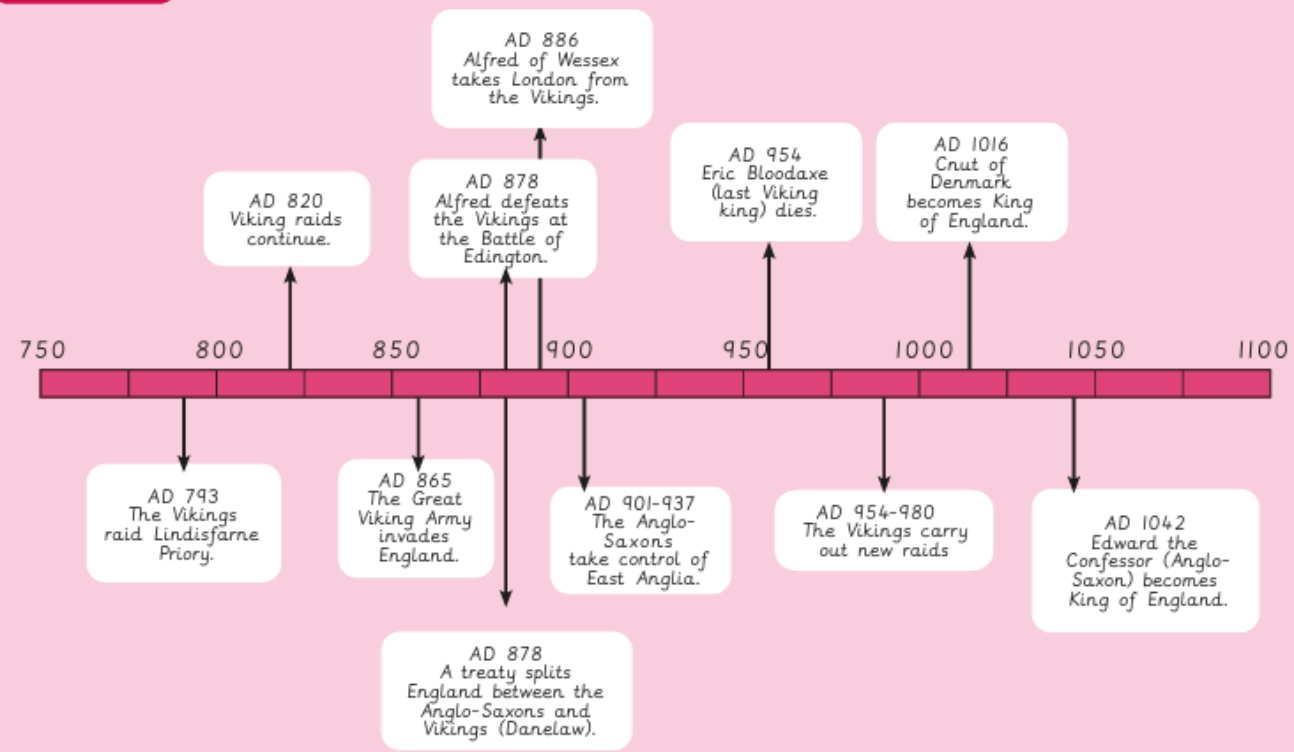
Settlers

In Britain, the Vikings started to stay over the winter months. Eventually, they settled down on land they had seized in eastern and northern England. Sometimes, the Anglo-Saxons gave them land to stop the Vikings from attacking them. In AD 878, Alfred the Great made a peace deal with the Vikings which split England into Anglo-Saxon and Viking-controlled areas. The Viking area, known as Danelaw, was settled and peaceful.



History - Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

Timeline



Knowledge Organiser– Science

Science - Properties and changes

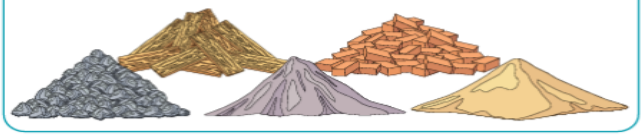
Conductivity is a measure of how quickly and easily a material will let heat or electrical charge pass through.

- Good **conductors**, like metal, will let heat and electricity pass through quickly.
- Good **insulators**, like plastic and rubber, will not let heat and electricity pass through easily.

Hardness is a measure of how easily a material can be scratched or dented.

- **Hard** materials, like most metals, cannot be scratched or dented easily.
- **Soft** materials, like clay or wax, can be scratched and dented easily.

Materials are chosen for specific uses according to their **properties**. For example, buildings are made from strong, durable materials like wood, stone, brick, concrete and metal.



Transparency is a measure of how much light a material lets pass through.

- Opaque materials, like metal and wood, do not let any light pass through so objects on the other side cannot be seen.



- Translucent materials, like some plastics, let some light pass through. The light is scattered as it passes through so objects on the other side (if visible) appear fuzzy, coloured or distorted.



- Transparent materials, like glass, let most light pass through with minimal scattering so objects on the other side are clearly visible.

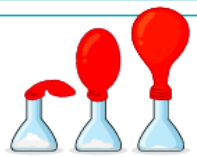


Science - Properties and changes

A **reversible change** is when a material is changed but can be easily reverted to its original state.

Dissolving is a reversible change because the dissolved substance can be reclaimed by evaporating the liquid.

Mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda is an irreversible change. A new product (a gas) is formed which causes fizzing.



An **irreversible change** occurs when a material is changed but cannot be easily reverted to its original state. New materials are produced in the process.



Burning is an irreversible change in which a material is burned and makes new products.

Rusting is an irreversible change in which iron makes **rust** when exposed to **water** and air (oxygen).



Changes of state are all examples of reversible changes because heating or cooling the substance will change it back to its original state.



solid

melting →

← freezing



liquid

evaporating →

← condensing



gas



Mechanical Systems - Pop-up book

Aesthetic	How an object or product looks.
CAD	Computer-aided-design. To use the computer to design a product, diagram or drawing.
Caption	A short piece of writing under a picture that describes or explains the picture.
Design	To make, draw or write plans for something.
Design brief	A description of what you are going to design and make and how it will work.
Design criteria	To help designers focus their ideas and test the success of them.
Exploded-diagram	A diagram which shows all of the parts of a product, including the internal and external parts.
Function	How an object or product operates or works.
Input	Input is the motion used to start a mechanism.
Linkage	A set of bars linked together to form a mechanism.
Mechanism	A system of parts working together.
Motion	The movement an object makes when controlled by an input or output (e.g. left, right, up, down).
Output	Output is the motion that happens as a result of starting the input.
Pivots	A shaft or pin on which something turns.
Prototype	A simple model that lets you test out your idea, showing how it will look and work.
Sliders	A part of a mechanism which allows an object to move from side-to-side (e.g. left-to-right).
Structure	Something which stands, usually on its own.
Template	A stencil made of metal, plastic, or paper, used for making many copies of a shape or to help cut material accurately (e.g. biscuit cutter).

Key fact

Input is the **motion** used to start a **mechanism. Output** is the **motion** that happens as a result of the **input**.



Think of a see-saw, when you sit on your side of the see-saw (**input**) your friend goes up on the other side. (**output**)

Did you know?



Did you know that the first children's pop-up books were invented in the 1700s? That's over 300 years ago! Lothar Meggendorfer was a well-known pop-up author in the 1800s.

Knowledge Organiser– Art