



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful and restful summer break. We are looking forward to seeing the children again this week as they continue their learning journey with us into Year 4. This letter will provide helpful information about the upcoming school year and, more specifically, the first term.

Autumn Term 1 and 2 - 'Warriors'

Our big question is: **Are the Vikings Misunderstood?**

The aim of this project is to develop an understanding of Britain's settlement by Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. The children will know how the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons influenced British culture and understand how they struggled to control Britain. They will also understand how we can use different historical sources and evidence to develop our knowledge of the past.

The Vikings will also be the focus for our residential trip to Hooke Court in Dorset from the **16th to the 18th of October**, which we are very excited about! We will be holding an information evening from **17:30 - 18:30 on Thursday, 14th September**, where we will go over the itinerary, kit list, and plans for the trip in more detail. There will also be time to answer any questions or queries that you may have.

The outcome of this project will be an immersive Viking museum curated by the children to share their learning from throughout the term and their residential experience with you. This will occur on the **12th of December from 8:45 to 9:15 am** in the school hall.

The children will also prepare and perform for you the traditional Christmas production of Mummers' play. This will take place on the evening of **Wednesday 13th December 2023**, more details to follow. Traditionally, there is carol singing and lantern parade from Year 6 around the village at 5 pm, then soup is served in the hall for parents and carers, followed by the Y4 Mummer's play. Once we have finalised the timings, they will be shared with you in the newsletter and on Class Dojo. We will need 4 or 5 parent and carer volunteers to make some soup to be served before the production. If you are interested in doing this, please contact me, or email the office.

In literacy this term, we will start by focusing on some key grammar and punctuation skills before immersing ourselves in the Myths and Legends genre for our writing topic. Later in the term, we will work on diary recounts linked to the Viking topic. We will also write poetry linked to the Harvest Festival.

In maths, we will begin by building on children's place value understanding with numbers up to 10,000, including representing them differently, ordering and comparing their values, rounding, and partitioning. We will then move on to adding and subtracting numbers mentally and using formal written methods.

Homework

The homework will continue to be set each week on a Friday (Spelling Shed and Times tables rockstars), and the children will be tested the following Friday. Please let us know if your child cannot access the homework, and we will ensure they have time to do that during school.

As the children are now in Year 4, it is their responsibility to ensure their homework is done, and we will be checking it is completed each week. Please do not hesitate to ask if you or your child ever need any support or resources to help with this.

This term, the children will also need to create a homework project based on the term's project (Warriors - Vikings and Anglo-Saxons). **The project homework is due in the week beginning 4th December 2023.** There are many ways in which your child could present this, such as an information poster, model, artwork, story, comic strip, booklet, or song!

Sports

Swimming will start the week beginning 11/09/23, and Year 4 will swim on a **Monday** afternoon. PE will be on a **Friday**. **Fitness Friday** will also continue this year, so please ensure your child comes into school in their PE kit on this day.

Some points to remember:

- Please provide a named swimming costume and hat (we cannot provide spares)
- No jewellery is permitted in the pool; so any earrings must be taken out
- If, for any reason, you wish for your child not to swim or take part in a PE lesson, please may we ask for a written note from you.
- On PE days, please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit (black shorts/trousers, plain white t-shirt, and trainers or plimsolls, all named and labelled). School jumpers and cardigans can be worn over their white T-shirts.
- To avoid lost kits, costumes, and hats, please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Please also ensure they bring daily water to school in a labelled bottle.

Thank you again for your support; we look forward to a busy and exciting term of learning! Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us at pick-up or contact us via the school office if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Shorter and the Year 4 team

