

A big welcome to you all from the year 4 team – Mrs Brothers, Mrs Rajeev, Mrs Newman and Mrs Reid.
We have lots to look forward to in our first term and we can't wait to get started with our learning!

Year 4

Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings

English

Many of our English lessons this term will link with our topic work. Children will learn about kennings, a form of Norse poetry, and will be writing their own. We will also be composing Viking sagas using different texts as inspiration for the settings and character descriptions. As part of this, children will be developing their dialogue writing skills.

The book 'How To Train Your Dragon' will inspire our non-fiction writing to hone skills in paragraphing, layout for clarity and sentence types. Children will be writing a persuasive letter to ask for a pet dragon and will also write instructions on how to catch a dragon and look after it.

Weekly guided reading sessions will take place every Friday. Children will learn how to analyse texts and write answers about what they've read in these sessions.

Most children will have a green practice book for home reading. Please see the inside cover for tips on how to support your child with this. However, if your child is on yellow band books, they are independent readers and practice books are no longer required.



How to get in touch

If you have any questions or messages, please come and speak to us on the playground after school or leave a message with the office. We can also be contacted by email.

Mrs Brothers (4B) – mrs.brothers@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Rajeev (4R) – mrs.rajeev@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Maths

We start the term with a focus on understanding place value and how the number system works. Children will explore different ways to represent numbers as well as how to recognise, order and compare them.

They will then build on their existing calculation skills to become proficient with mental and written methods. Children will be taught to apply their calculation skills when investigating and solving a range of mathematical problems in different contexts, using images and models when needed.

Children will also work on learning their times-tables and division facts. They are expected to know up to 12 x 12 fluently by the end of Year 4. Regular practise of times tables at home would be extremely beneficial to your child.

Reading for Pleasure

As well as having a practice reading book to develop reading skills (up to yellow band), we encourage all children to also choose a book to read for pleasure. This can be either from the classroom, from home or from the library.



Lifeskills

Through regular lesson and circle time, children will continue to learn how to recognise and talk about their feelings through the use of the Zones of Regulation. They will consider the qualities needed to be a good friend and understand that people have different opinions.

We will also revisit how to recognise bullying behaviour and the importance of reporting it.

Computing

Throughout the term, children will be looking at the importance of e-safety and revising the SMART rules.



They will also be using Publisher to create a poster for our topic including images, text and WordArt. Children will be creating simple Excel spreadsheets and using formulae to make a times tables aid. In each lesson, they will have the opportunity to improve their touch-typing skills.

History and Geography

Focusing on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, our topic is a study of the power struggle to control Britain after the Romans left. Children will create timelines for this period and use sources of evidence to help learn about invasions, settlements and the lives of people during this period.

Children will learn where many of these invaders came from and identify these countries on a map. They will find out how the Battle of Maldon shaped the history of our local area and will create sketch maps of Northey Island.



RE



This term, the children will be learning about Christianity, focussing on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the calling of the disciples. Later in the term, the children will learn about the founder of Sikhism and study stories about him.



Science

This term, children will learn how to use and create classification keys to help identify plants and animals. They will then learn about habitats, food chains and different environments, before exploring the human impact on habitats and how they can be protected.



Music



Children will learn songs inspired by Viking myths and legends and begin to find out about musical notation. Later in the term they will start to learn how to play the recorder.

French



The children will build on their Year 3 knowledge by learning the French alphabet and numbers to 100. They will learn about grammar used in the language when learning about family members.



PE – Monday and Wednesdays



In the first few weeks of term, the children will begin to learn the basics of tennis, including how to grip the racket correctly and develop accuracy when hitting. In gymnastics, children will be refining techniques for jumping, rolling, travelling and developing their own sequences. After half term, they will learn different passes, how to shoot and correct footwork for netball before moving onto country dances where they will learn traditional moves and perform them as a group. Please inform your child's teacher if your child is unable to take part in any PE sessions.



Homework

English and Maths homework is set on alternate Fridays and is due in on Wednesday. It should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Maths will generally be online tasks using 'MyMaths'. The English based task will be set on Google Classroom. If you do not have access to a computer and will therefore need paper copies, please let us know. We strongly encourage children to read at home at least 3 times a week. It would be extremely beneficial if they could also practise spellings and times tables regularly.