

Year 5 Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 1

Friday 4th September 2026
to
Friday 23rd October 2026

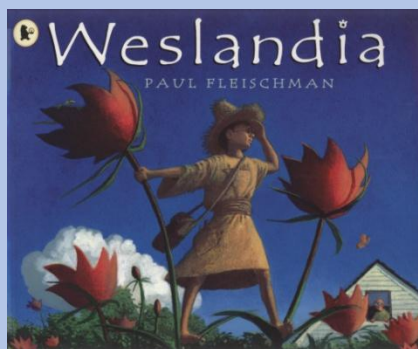


Theme – The Vicious Vikings



Our topic theme for this half term is called The Vicious Vikings. Across our creative curriculum, we will be learning all about the Vikings invading Britain. We will discover where the tribes originated and begin to uncover the lives of everyday people from this time period.

What will we read this half term?



Weslandia is a book about Wesley who, during the summer holidays, creates his own civilization called 'Weslandia' from a unique plant that grows in his back garden. This story celebrates individuality and encourages children to embrace their unique interests.

Viking Boy

Gunnar is the son of a Viking chieftain, living peacefully on his family steading with his mother, father and their people – until they are raided by Skuli and his Wolf Men, who raze his home to the ground and take his father's life. Gunnar swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli – but first he must run to save himself. Murderous raiders, hand to hand battles to the death, mythical flying wolves and a relentless sea journey to the Land of Fire

and Ice... Unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.

What will we learn this half term?

Please note that all of the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage and rationales for teaching. Please take time to read them.

English

In English, we will be working on the following areas:

- Revisiting and embedding previously taught grammar and punctuation skills.
- Extended narrative writing inspired by 'Viking Boy'
- Our SPaG objectives include using expanded noun phrases, direct speech and effective vocabulary choices

We will also complete guided reading, spelling and handwriting activities too.

Pupils will explore the Big Debate question: Was Gunnar right to seek revenge for his father's death? They will develop their speaking and listening skills by sharing ideas, presenting evidence, and considering different viewpoints.

We will continue with our oracy skills through the poem The Tyger by William Blake. This will include learning the poem by heart and performing it aloud, helping students to build confidence, expression and an appreciation of rhythm and storytelling in poetry.

Maths

In maths, we will be working on the following areas:

Decimal Fractions

- Understand and represent tenths and hundredths as decimal fractions.
- Read, write, count, compare and order decimals.
- Explore place value and different ways to partition and compose decimals.
- Calculate with decimals, including mental methods and column addition/subtraction.
- Use decimals to solve problems involving length and real-life contexts.
- Convert between metres and centimetres using place value.
- Round decimals with tenths and hundredths to the nearest tenth or whole number.

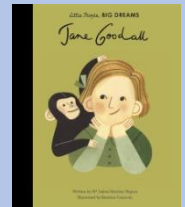
Negative Numbers

- Understand positive and negative numbers and their meaning in different contexts.
- Read, write and locate negative numbers on a number line.
- Explore how a number's value relates to its position from zero.
- Calculate intervals using positive and negative numbers.
- Use positive and negative numbers on coordinate grids.
- Interpret and use positive and negative numbers when reading graphs and real-world situations.

We will also be revising our multiplication and division facts, using the Times Table Rockstars website, which can also be accessed at home. Children have been given their login details and have been shown how to access the resources from home.

Science

Our science unit is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children will explore reproduction in different plants, including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction. They will learn about different types of mammals and their different life cycles. They will explore metamorphosis in insects and amphibians, comparing their life cycles. As part of our work in this unit, we will be sharing the story of Jane Goodall, who is the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees and an active conservationist.



Research Topic - History

Were the Vikings traders, raiders or something else?

We will:

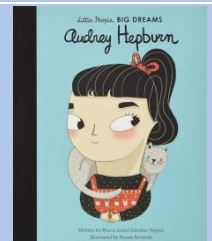
- Explain where the Vikings came from and why they invaded Britain
- Sequence events according to their significance for groups of people
- Find evidence and make inferences from sources
- Name Viking trade routes
- Explain why trade routes were important to the Vikings
- Identify the differences between Viking sagas
- Evaluate the impact of Viking achievements

Music

Our music learning is focused around the song: Livin' On A Prayer. This is an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music, singing and playing instruments are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise other classic rock songs.

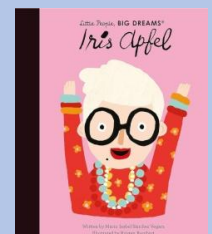
PSHE

Through the unit Being Me in My World, we will be focusing on self-esteem, team building and seeing ourselves and others in a positive light. As part of our work in this unit, we will be sharing the story of Audrey Hepburn; the famous actress who was also a tireless advocate for children's rights.



Design Technology

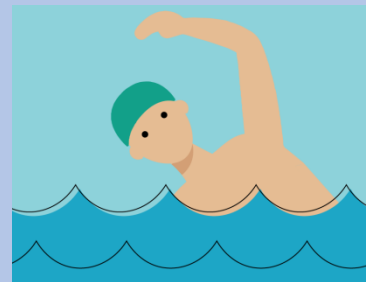
We will analyse and evaluate a range of existing fastenings and create Viking book covers. In addition to this, we will be reading about Iris Apfel, who was an iconic designer and fashion figure.



PE

PE sessions will be on every Thursday and every other Tuesday. This term, the children will be playing Tag Rugby. They will learn how to refine passing and moving to create attacking opportunities, explore different passes that can be used to outwit defenders, refine defending as a team, create and apply defending tactics and develop officiating.

Our indoor sessions will refine the children's ability to apply effective teamwork through different problem-solving challenges. They will apply successful leadership and communication skills as they take responsibility for their team members.



Year 5 will be beginning their compulsory swimming lessons on Monday 21st September 2026 for two weeks. Both Year 5 classes will swim every day at our onsite fully heated pool. Please ensure has all the necessary equipment for these sessions (please see Arbor email for further information).

RE

Our RE unit is a Christianity focus exploring the key question: What does it mean if Christians believe God is loving and holy? We will consider how Christians have to balance ideas of God being angered by sin and injustice but also how a holy and loving God might make a difference in the world today.

Computing

In this unit, learners explore how computer systems work and how information is transferred between devices. They examine input, process and output in real-world systems, from small-scale to large-scale, and investigate how search engines find, select and rank information on the World Wide Web.

Foreign Languages

In this 'En Classe' unit, the children will learn to remember and recall 12 classroom objects. They will also learn to say and write what they have and do not have in their pencil case.

Homework

Every week homework will consist of reading and times tables to learn, and a piece of Maths and English work which will be handed out and collected in on a Monday. We would recommend that children spend time on the website <https://ttrockstars.com/> to keep up to speed with their multiplication and division skills.

Thank you for your continued support.
Kind regards,

Miss Hind and Miss Coles