

Year 5 – The Dark Ages

English:

In English, children will be using linked texts and model examples to support their writing. They will create two main pieces: a legend based on Beowulf and a persuasive speech titled *“Why should we have more playground equipment?”*

Along the way, they will develop key writing skills, including using persuasive devices, correct punctuation and grammar, proofreading, and understanding homophones, verb forms, modal verbs, and how to modify nouns to add detail and precision.

Science:

This term in Science, we are exploring Forces and Motion. Children will investigate how gravity pulls objects towards the Earth, test how parachute size affects how fast it falls, and explore how water resistance changes the movement of different shapes. They will also carry out an investigation into friction between different surfaces, measuring forces using Newton meters. Finally, the children will discover how simple machines such as levers, pulleys, and gears help make work easier in everyday life.

Key information:

Parent & Child Christmas Decoration Making:
Thursday 27th November at 2pm

Home Learning - Due in **Monday 8th December 2025**

The children are taken back in time to 410-1066AD where they are challenged to discover about the life and times of the Anglo Saxons, how and where they lived, dressed and worked. As aspiring historians, they will build upon skills acquired during Year 4 to use a variety of sources, setting their own goals to research and learn how the Anglo Saxons came to live in Britain. They will challenge the common misconceptions of an Anglo-Saxon community as they justify why they deserved and needed to settle in Britain.

Throughout this project, the children will be immersed in developing their knowledge and skills as historians; discovering the work of archaeologists and accidental finds of metal detectorists, and about the importance of archaeology in understanding our past.

Project Vocabulary

Please ensure your child learns these and encourage them to use them correctly in school.

Invasion, settle, reconstruction, pagan, plunder, Scandinavia, grave goods, archaeologist, excavation, function, sceptre, garnet, hoard, metal detecting, saga, chronicle, monastery, proof, evidence, decay, evacuate, preserved, classification, cataloguing, strata, shard.

Design Technology:

In Design and Technology, the children will be designing and making their own Anglo-Saxon purses. They will begin by researching and discussing ideas, creating sketches and prototypes to help plan their designs. Using a range of textiles, stitches, and finishing techniques, they will carefully make purses that are both functional and attractive. Finally, the children will evaluate their finished products, comparing them with their original designs and considering feedback to help improve their work.

History:

In History, we are learning about **the** Anglo-Saxons and exploring why they came to England after the Romans left. We'll consider why this period is sometimes called the 'Dark Ages' and use historical sources and evidence to find out what life was like at the time. The children will study fascinating discoveries such as the Sutton Hoo burial and the Staffordshire Hoard, learning how these finds help us understand the past.

British Values:

The children will be showing the British Values of democracy and individual liberty whilst discovering how the Anglo Saxon's lived and creating their artefacts as part of their home learning projects.