



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and hope that you all had a restful, relaxing break. The table below provides you with an overview of our learning for the next two terms. Our overarching topic is entitled 'Raiders or Traiders?'

English
We will be covering a range of genres, starting with narrative writing focussing on stories set in other cultures from around the world such as 'Mufaro's beautiful daughters'. We will then be moving onto non-chronological report writing. This will give us the opportunity to write about other curriculum areas such as The Vikings in History. We will also read a range of texts to support each genre in our guided reading sessions on Wednesdays.
Mathematics
We begin the term by looking at place value and extend the numbers we count up and down to, including negative numbers. The rest of the term will consist of revising and extending our methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children will have opportunities to develop their fluency with methods such as the grid method and chunking on a number line before developing their reasoning and problem-solving skills. We will use these written methods to solve problems presented in a variety of ways, including using money. Furthermore, we will also learn to read co-ordinates and continue to build on our efficiency in mental maths. The children will continue to practice their times table skills weekly to build up their confidence and recall.
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
This term we will be learning all about valuing and celebrating differences and how to keep ourselves safe. The children will be learning about gender stereotypes and will be thinking about why it is important to challenge these within society. They will also be learning about what makes people different such as family structures, cultural and religious differences. Within our PSHE lessons, we will also be exploring the idea of personal space and why this is important. Alongside our PSHE units, we will also be engaging with learning from SCIB.

The children in Year 4 will also be continuing to integrate with Frank Wise children on a fortnightly basis (Wednesday afternoons), working on their communication and team work skills with Commando Joe's.

To find out what we are learning in all the other subject areas please look at the 'Knowledge Organisers' which can be found on the class blog.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and due in the following Thursday. In addition to this, there is a Year 4 homework club every Thursday lunch time which is a great opportunity for the children to come and discuss any issues they have had with their issues and to complete any outstanding work before handing it in.

- Reading: 15 minutes a day for 5 days per week which is to be recorded in their reading journals. Adults are asked to write a comment and sign the book when they have read with their child.
- A spelling or grammar activity, designed to support, practise, or revisit something we have learned in class will be given weekly. Every other week, a spelling list will be given in preparation for a test the following week.
- In Maths, the children will be given an activity linked to class work one week and the next week a multiplication focused task, either using Times Table Rockstars or an activity sheet.

- In line with our homework policy, each activity should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete

Ways you can help your child:

- Please listen to your child read and share books with them for approximately fifteen minutes per night, recording comments in the reading journal provided. Asking your child questions about the book they have read will help to develop their comprehension skills.
- Please share and discuss the knowledge organisers for this term, looking at the vocabulary to support and extend their learning.
- Please remember to regularly visit our blog at: <https://classroom.google.com> or via the app, using your child's log in details. This is a great way to find out what we have been up to in our class.
- Please ensure that your child is frequently practising their times tables, either on paper or by playing a times table themed game such as Times Table Rockstars.

PE days

Our outdoor lessons will continue to take place on a Wednesday and our indoor lessons will take place in the hall on Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for both of these sessions. This consists of a plain white polo t-shirt and navy shorts for indoor sessions, with the addition of a navy sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for outdoor lessons. Trainers are the most appropriate footwear for outdoor PE, as they provide far more cushioning and stability than plimsolls. Plasters or medical tape should be provided for children who are unable to take their earrings out.

Class assembly

Our next class assembly will be on **Friday 24th February**, starting at 2:30pm. We would love you to join us. Please do not bring toddlers and babies if they are going to be a distraction for the children performing.

Term 2 and 3 shared lessons

- **Tuesday 31st January (2-3pm)** – In this shared lesson, we will be learning about the Vikings and creating a Viking inspired purse.
- **Monday 27th March (8:45-10:15am)** – Using our learning in Geography about settlements, we will be designing and creating an early settlement, identifying the needs and wants of settlers such as the Anglo Saxons and Vikings.

Forthcoming trips

Our class trip to Hillend will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd March, where the children will immerse themselves in Anglo Saxon and Viking life. The final payment of the trip, which is £19.04, is due by **Monday 16th January**.

I look forward to an exciting term ahead! As always, if you have any queries or concerns, do not hesitate to make an appointment to discuss these. I am happy to have a very brief chat in the mornings; alternatively we can arrange a more convenient time after school.

Kind regards,

Miss Ross
Class Teacher.