

The Smashing Saxons – Hawk Class – Autumn 1



Welcome back and welcome to Year 5 and Hawk Class! I hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays and are now ready for a busy and enjoyable half term ahead. We are starting Year 5 with one of my favourite topics - the Anglo Saxons! We will be learning about the lives of the Anglo-Saxons, comparing them to other periods of history that we have studied and investigating whether this period of time really deserves the title of The Dark Ages. It's such an interesting period because there is a lot of fascinating Anglo-Saxon history in the local area - so you have the chance to go exploring and find out more!

I'm really looking forward to teaching the class this year. Please feel free to come and see me should you have any questions or concerns about your child or if you just want to introduce yourself. Additionally, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Parents Meeting on Friday 11th September 2026 at 2:30pm. I look forward to meeting you and teaching your children throughout the year.

Zara Noyce

English

We will be investigating Saxon myths and legends focussing on the story of *Beowulf* as retold by Michael Morpurgo. This will give us the opportunity to think about character and setting description and how the construction of sentences enhances our writing.

Reading every day and developing a love for the subject is vital to success across so many different areas of the curriculum. Please ensure that your child reads every night and that they have their book and reading journal in school every day. To assist the work that we will be doing in school this half term, when your child reads to you, ask them to think about the characters in their book. How has the author created that character and how do they show what they are like?

Science

Our work in science this term will focus on animals including humans and the changes in their lifecycles. Have a look at the link for an overview of what we will be studying:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcyycdm/articles/zd3p6g8>

Computing

This half term we are looking at conditions and creating a game on Scratch using these. The children always love these lessons and Scratch is a brilliant website that can be accessed at home: scratch.mit.edu/parents can give you more information and help you create an account for your child.

Maths

In maths we will be extending our place value knowledge, working with much bigger numbers all the way up to one million. We will be doing lots of work with these numbers including:

- Looking at the place value of the different digits
- Order and comparing these numbers
- Counting up and down in jumps of 10, 100, 1000 and 10000 and spotting patterns
- Rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and 10000
- Adding and subtracting using these much bigger numbers

Having taken the Multiplication Check last year, it is vital that they continue to practise these skills, as so much of the Year 5 maths curriculum links back to this. Therefore, please keep on encouraging them to go on Times Tables Rock Stars and to practise their times tables as much as possible.

PE

In PE this half-term we will be focussing on tennis as well as developing our fundamental movement skills. Our PE days are different this year so **please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day and that it contains their full PE kit (white shirt, black shorts, suitable shoes for running outdoors)**. Long hair should be tied up and earrings taken out (or covered with micropore tape).