

Riverside Primary School

Curriculum Newsletter for Families:

September 2026

Year 6

This half term our theme is...



Traders and Raiders

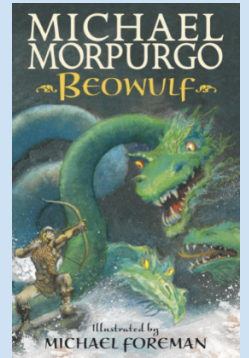


Welcome Year 6 to the Autumn Term and to our new, half-termly curriculum update newsletter!

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you all about the exciting half-term ahead. This newsletter is where you can find out all about what your child will be learning over the coming weeks, along with some ideas and suggestions for some activities you could try to support their learning at home.

What are we learning during this theme?

We are incredibly excited to kick off the new school year by taking our classes on an epic journey back in time to explore the era of traders and raiders! This half term, your child will dive deep into the fascinating history of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking kingdoms, learning about their conquests, beliefs, and daily lives. Together, we will gather evidence to answer our big question: "Were the Vikings great explorers or vicious raiders?" To bring this era to life, our class reader will be Michael Morpurgo's thrilling retelling of *Beowulf*, a classic legend rooted deep in Anglo-Saxon lore.



Beyond history, the children have a wonderful variety of learning experiences ahead of them. In Art and Design, they will take inspiration from the historic Bayeux Tapestry to create their own textile pieces using a variety of traditional stitches. For PE, the children will be heading to the pool for swimming lessons to build confidence and essential water skills. Meanwhile, we are launching Computing with a Digital Foundations unit, which is specifically crafted to give students a robust framework of skills for the digital journey ahead.

We are also expanding our language and personal development skills with some fantastic new topics. In French, we are diving straight into *La phonétique* to help the children build confidence with phonics and pronunciation. In PSHE, our lessons will focus on mental health and wellbeing. Alongside this, our *No Outsiders* curriculum will feature Nicola Davies' book, *King of the Sky*, helping students explore immigration and empathy as they learn to understand and share the feelings of those in unfamiliar situations.

Trips, Visitors and Experiences

We have such an exciting final half-term ahead:

- Head boy/girl speeches for Year 6
- Team captains speeches for Year 6
- Individual photos
- Black History Month

How can you support your child at home?

Every week, your child will receive their usual home learning tasks of reading, spelling and writing/maths.

In addition to this, please find some suggestions below on how to support your child's learning. Why not pop to the local library and loan out some books that link to our theme?

Days out and things to do:

- Visit Maldon and see the statue of Byrhtnoth.
- West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, which is just outside Bury St Edmunds
- Visit the oldest recorded battlefield in Britain, Northey Island, Essex

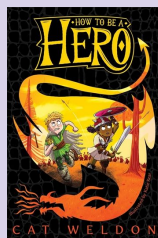
Books to read:



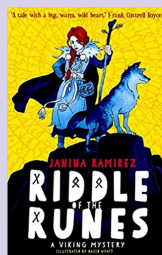
Anglo Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman



Smashing Saxons by Terry Deary



How to be a hero by Cat Wheldon



Things to watch:

[Horrible Histories: Vicious Vikings](#)

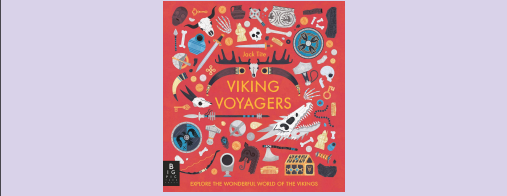
[Horrible Histories: Smashing Saxons](#)

[BBC Bitesize: Anglo Saxons](#)

[BBC Bitesize: Vikings](#)

[Twinkl: Who were the Vikings?](#)

Riddle of the Runes by Jamina Ramirez



Viking Voyagers by Jack Tite