

Ladysmith Junior School

Year 4 Learning Letter

Autumn Term 2 2019

Reflecting back on the autumn term

What we have been teaching for the first half of the autumn term:

- Where Does Our Food Go? (Teeth, Digestion)
- 4 digit numbers –place value, rounding, adding and subtracting, negative numbers, Roman numerals
- What daily life in the 'Dark Ages' may have been like, using clues from archaeology
- Writing: accurate punctuation, rich vocabulary, expanded noun phrases

What the children have most enjoyed learning about:

- The digestive system, using household items
- What liquids are bad for teeth and observing the effects- modelled by egg shells!
- The visit to Escot Anglo-Saxon living history village
- Making Viking burial boats
- Archaeological dig to find and sketch artefacts
- Reconstructing a helmet based on an archaeological finding

What we have planned for the second half of the autumn term

Our topics:

- Continue our study of aspects of life in the Dark Ages
- Science: electrical circuits

Memorable and inspiring moments, including planned trips and visits:

- Cooking (anglo-saxon) pottage over an open fire (because the weather will be dry!)
- Test/burn boats
- Apple I-store trip
- Make a seasonal decoration, which lights up/makes noise
- Perform a nativity play 17th and 18th December in the afternoon. More details to follow.

Key learning in reading:

- Read/listen to and discuss Viking myths
- Find synonyms and antonyms for words.
- Work out meanings of phrases
- Draw inferences, using clues from the text, such as characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions. Discuss the impressions that the word choices give
- Try to explain 'message' of different texts
- Use a Reading Journal to record their reading at home and at school
- Complete accelerated reader quizzes

Key learning in writing:

- Improve sentences, by choice of effective adjectives in expanded noun phrases
- Use a range of rich verbs
- Use speech punctuation and layout
- How to edit and improve writing independently
- Paragraphing: how to organize ideas effectively
- Understand and use subordinate clauses to write complex sentences, with commas

Key learning in maths:

- Problem solving, using addition and subtraction
- Measuring perimeter – of rectangles and rectilinear shapes
- Multiplying and dividing – by multiples of 10, 100, 0 and 1
by 6, 9, and 7
- Learning the 11 and 12 times table

Key learning in other subjects:

- Science:
 - what are the dangers of electricity
 - what materials are insulators and conductors
 - how to make an electrical circuit, with electrical components
- History:
 - Re-enactment of skills weaving and sewing
 - Brooch design
 - Prepare and cook Anglo-Saxon dish, using range of skills, to re-construct life experience for the time
 - Design Viking shield, using evidence from past. Create pattern by repeated printing
 - Pagan gods and the changes of religious beliefs
 - Recreate Viking creation myth
 - Through these activities we will be learning the skills of looking for links and effects in time studied and offering explanations for some events
- Music: 'Ten Pieces' classical music from different eras
- PE: gymnastics and indoor athletics, including skipping
- RE: What is important to me? (creation stories)
- PSHE: year 4 Health and Well-Being. PSHE information letter to follow

How you can help your child with their learning:

- Practice times tables & help them learn spellings
- Read with your child each week, using VIPERS questions to deepen understanding, and help them to record their reading in their Reading Journal. Complete Accelerated Reader quizzes
- Practice telling the time and working out time intervals, on digital and analogue.

We are collecting the following items for our work in topic. If you are able to source any or some of the following, please save and send in:

- ✚ Cereal boxes and/or shoe boxes
- ✚ Polystyrene pizza base packaging
- ✚ Wool, ribbon
- ✚ Hessian potato sacks
- ✚ Thicker card board
- ✚ Foil trays