Year 4 Curriculum Themes 2021/22





<u>Autumn Term 1 – Roman Britain</u>

Join us on our Roman adventure as we read A Roman Soldier's Handbook by Lesley Sims and My Story – Roman Invasion by Jim Eldridge. We learn all about the history and structure of ancient Rome and the Roman Empire, including a detailed exploration of the Romanisation of Britain. During this theme, we will be sequencing events through time, exploring the impact of Romans in Britain, investigating the growth of the Roman Empire and learning all about Boudicca's rebellion!

Autumn Term 2 – Heroes and Villains

Martin Luther, Joan of Arc, Rosa Parks or Amy Johnson? Someone from your family or the local firefighters? There are many heroes and heroines, but who do you admire the most? Learn and sing songs about the infamous villains, Bonnie and Clyde and Cruella de Vil. Write a riddle, a comic strip and change a traditional tale, develop dialogue and character and a biographical article. How does it feel to do good and bad things? Which feels best and why? Can you do a good deed that changes the world? During this theme, we will be exploring a range of non-fiction texts about real life heroes, with some taken from the Little People, Big Dreams series, as well as exploring famous fictional heroes and villains in well-known stories such as Varjak Paw by SF Said. Perhaps we can be heroes, just for one day?

Spring Term 1 – Misty Mountain, Winding River

Ashley is our guide as we explore the misty mountains and winding rivers of the world, through the outstanding key text, King of the Cloud Forest, by famous children's author, Michael Morpurgo. We will be teaching children about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world,

including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them. We will also explore beautiful landscape artists and their work, teaching children about the techniques that artists use when composing landscape images, such as colour and atmosphere.

<u>Spring Term 2 – Take One Author – Michael Morpurgo and Take One Poet – Brenda</u> <u>Williams</u>

As part of our Take One Author study, we will be exploring and comparing a selection of stories by Michael Morpurgo. We will be investigating the themes within stories that he has written, such as friendship, war and overcoming the odds. We will be referring back to one of his books which we have already read this year, King of the Cloud Forest, and we will be reading the book The Butterfly Lion. To immerse the children in one of his most famous stories, we will also share the film War Horse, which will allow us to explore and compare this story to the others which we will be reading, without spending an extended amount of time reading the book. We will also be enjoying a variety of poems by Brenda Williams, including her poem 'War Horse', which was inspired by the story by Michael Morpurgo.

Summer Term 1 – Vikings and Anglo Saxons

Big and strong, powerful and brave, the Saxons wave their battle axes and brandish their swords as they begin to invade Britain's shores. During this theme, we will read Viking Boy by Tony Bradman and we will sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. We will find out about the lives of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from, and then we will meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia – never before had such terror swept the land. Within this project we will also make a Saxon sword or a Viking brooch and decorate it with intricate patterns. We will choose to be a Saxon or Viking and trade our crafty goods, but let's keep it cool. We don't want a fight breaking out. Are you ready to shine a light on the dangerous and deadly Dark Ages?

Summer Term 2 – Living things and their Habitats

Reading 'Whale Boy' by Nicola Davies, and 'All The Wild Wonders – Poems of Our Earth', we will be going deep into an underwater world of incredible coral and mysterious sea creatures, whilst also exploring living things from other habitats. We will be answering questions such as: Can you pick a favourite fish, plant or animal? What do real divers get up to below the surface? Can you create a story about an amazing underwater world? After this, we will make and test a model deep sea submarine that can withstand great pressure and travel to the deepest, darkest places on Earth. We will explore real life issues through the text Whale Boy, such as animals being kept in captivity and pollution in the world's habitats.