



During this term, our theme is:
Why is the journey of a river important?
Below are the areas that we are covering this half term.



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	As part of our English work this half term, we will be reading the novel Journey to the River Sea (a classic tale by Eva Ibbotson) to support our learning as well as completing lots of work around this in our writing lessons. We will also be completing Geography work around the journey of a river and why it is important. During our work we will continue to look at descriptive writing and the use of figurative language, as well as ensuring we are using previously taught skills (such as parenthesis, relative clauses and modal verbs) consistently in our writing. In reading sessions this term the children will be focusing on the use of vocabulary and definitions, and why the author has chosen to use the words they have.	Whenever you get the opportunity, see what your child is reading or read with them. It doesn't matter what it is, as long as they are enjoying it and learning from it! Lots of children enjoyed the Reading Reward Disco this past half term and others have received enough marks for the upcoming Cinema Experience. Encourage your child if they have not already to aim to read enough times to be in for the next big event; it doesn't take much reading to receive enough marks to win the top prize – just 10 or 15 minutes per day 3 or 4 times a week is all it takes.
Maths	This half term we will be focusing on Multiplication and Division; to include multiplying and divide whole numbers and those involving decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. We will also be learning about Geometry, so that we are able to distinguish between regular and irregular polygons based on reasoning about equal sides and angles. Additionally, we will revisit fractions, starting to look at being able to recognise mixed numbers and improper fractions (converting from one form to the other). Running alongside our daily Maths lessons, we also complete an Arithmetic session daily with an Arithmetic test once a week on a Friday, so we can practise our basic skills - including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.	Have a look online as there are lots of maths puzzles and games to explore and enjoy! Have a discussion about number on a regular basis – test your child's rapid recall on their times tables and related number facts: it is really important for Year 5 that they know these and are comfortable with all of their times tables so get practising! Remind your child that they can log onto Times Table Rockstars at home: starting Monday 17 th February, the whole of Year 5 will complete against Year 6 in a three week head-to-head tournament. Encourage your child to participate as often as they can so that Year 5 come out victorious!
Science	This half term we are learning about living things and their habitats. This will include identifying the function of the parts of a flower and the way that plants are pollinated in order to reproduce. We will compare the life cycle of plants and animals and also look at metamorphosis - in both insects and amphibians.	Are you able to research 'metamorphosis'? In order to present your findings, you could make a poster, fact file or PowerPoint about what you have discovered. Mr Curtis and Mrs Jones would be very impressed with this self-study ahead of the topic!
Geography	We will be learning all about the journey of a river and its importance. Due to its success in previous years, we are looking at the possibility of booking a 'River Tees Study' fieldtrip at Teesmouth Field Centre at Teesside during Spring 2. The trip will be a full day, and will include visiting the River Tees next to the Transporter Bridge to observe the river and the North Gare Beach to see the river's mouth and construct models of the River Tees on the beach. We will be in touch with more details about this soon.	Discuss this topic with your children at home. Can your child complete independent research about rivers and bring their findings into school to share with their teachers and peers? Encourage your child to complete this research and encourage them to create a booklet or poster to creatively show why the journey of a river is so important.

Computing	This half term we will be exploring the unit 'We are bloggers – sharing opinions and experiences'. We will establish what actually makes a good 'blog', write our own blog posts and comment on other people's blogs. Once we have mastered this, we will write a blog about an event as it happens.	Children can all access Times Table Rock Stars at home using tablets and home PCs. Ask your child to tell you how your family can stay safe online, following on from our 'Safer Internet Day' last half term.
Religious Education	We will be looking at The Last Supper and its importance to Christians. This topic links nicely with Easter and will education children on the Easter story, including the life and rebirth of Jesus Christ.	Encourage conversations at home about this timely and important subject. Share your own views honestly and discuss the importance of respecting the beliefs of others.
Physical Education	We will be learning and applying the skills needed to play invasion team games: this term we will be learning to play and participating in games of Hockey. Weather permitting we will be out on the school field so P.E. Kits are a must! If you need any information about P.E. Kits please contact the school office. Once brought into school, they can be left the whole half term.	Can you practise any new skills at home in your spare time? Anyone who played in the Basketball or Dodgeball tournaments – could you teach a family member, friend or peer how to play these exciting team games?
Art	This half term we will be studying River Art, where we will look at the work of famous artists, architects and sculptors who specialise in different art forms to represent Rivers, as well as creating a final piece inspired by one of these famous artists.	We had such good fun making Anglo-Saxon jewellery last half term – we hope you thought they were all as good at clay modelling necklace pendants and brooches as we did! Could they carry these skills over to produce another sculpture at home?
French	We will be learning how to discuss and describe 'School Life' in French, including our favourite lessons, objects in the classroom and where they belong as well as telling a partner all about a typical Maths lesson.	Practise using the French vocabulary learnt in school at home or with friends. Can you teach anyone any new French words or impress them with any phrases you have learned?
PSE	This half term we will be continuing to look at our health and wellbeing in more detail. We will continue to explore what is meant by a healthy lifestyle, how we can look after our own wellbeing, managing risks (such as e-safety and mobile phone use), keeping safe and managing changes in our lives.	Discuss our topics at home together. Look at how we can keep safe when out of the house, how our diets are good for our lifestyle and what we already do to keep healthy. You can also look at what makes you feel happy and create a presentation around this.
Music	In Music this half term we will be composing music based on short video clips about life cycles of animals and plants. We will experiment with different instruments as well as pitch, tempo and dynamics. We absolutely love our music lessons and hope to capture one of our performances on video.	Ask your child about music from the last half term and what they enjoyed most about it. Musical instruments are easy and fun to make at home from recycled household products and waste. Why not get creative and make some of your own and bring them into school to share with us! http://kiddley.com/2013/07/09/10-great-musical-instruments-to-make-at-home/



During this term, our theme is:

Who were the Anglo Saxons?

Below are the areas that we are covering within the theme.



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	<p>This half term, we will start by completing our work around 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. We are all very excited to find out how the story ends – will Michael be rescued? We will be writing a new story from the perspective of Kensuke, inspired by an interesting video as well as the book. Following this, we will then be studying the classic story of Beowulf, which links to our Anglo Saxon topic. We can't wait for this – an exciting, fast-paced story full of adventure, thrills and battles. We are sure that the children are going to love it! Throughout these areas of work, we shall cover a range of writing and reading objectives.</p>	<p>The main activities that would benefit learning in English is if children can read at home regularly (with their reading record signed) and practise spellings when they come home. We really appreciate your support in these areas. As well as this, you could visit the library, to either find more Michael Morpurgo books to read or research the Anglo Saxon period which Beowulf is set in. As well as this, children could create their own monster for Beowulf to battle. Also, we would love to see any book reviews that children made about the books we have studied in school.</p>
Maths	<p>Place value – roman numerals and negative numbers</p> <p>To start with, we will be developing our place value knowledge further through studying Roman Numerals (up to 1000, and even beyond) and negative numbers. As well as this, we shall be expanding our knowledge of rounding, including how to round to set amounts (such as the nearest 10 or 100) and how to use rounding to estimate answers.</p> <p>Following this we will revisit using a written method for division, this time extending the learning to include remainders, before revisiting area of shapes.</p> <p>Our final topics for this half term will both focus around shape and space. First, we will be looking and both reflection and translation, which is always very enjoyable. Finally, we will be looking at properties of shapes in more detail, particularly identifying regular and irregular shapes.</p>	<p>One of the main ways children can develop their knowledge at home is to practise their times table knowledge, this includes through the use of the times table rock stars game, which is available on the internet and as an app. Also, you could encourage your children to share their school learning with you, showing their knowledge by 'teaching' people at home what they have learnt in school. You could also search for our topics around you in the world: Roman Numerals, negative numbers, area and shape are quite evident and may provide fun areas to explore.</p>
Science	<p>This half term we are learning about what the properties of materials are and how these can change, and will also become CSI forensic investigators for a day! During this exciting day, we will create a new substance, use chromatography and study fingerprints!</p>	<p>Explore their home – what different materials they can find? Why are different objects made out of different materials (such as why is a radiator made out of metal?). Children could then present this information to the rest of the class.</p>

History	<p>Our History this half term focuses on the Anglo Saxons – who were they? This is a fascinating unit of History and marks an important time within British History. Amongst many other things, we shall study:</p> <p>Key events of the period Why and when did they arrive How their Kingdoms compare to English counties today Life in an Anglo Saxon village Their religious beliefs and practices We can't wait to dive into this topic!</p>	<p>If you would like to learn more about the Anglo Saxons at home, then either the library or the internet are great places to start. Any research could then be brought into school in a range of ways – a poster, PowerPoint, story, fact file, modal, piece of Art or even some Anglo Saxon baking!</p>
Computing	<p>We are digital artists Building on the previous Computing work, we shall be learning how to create pieces of digital Art. We will be using tessellation to create works of Art, alongside a computer program called Inkscape to create pictures and landscapes inspired by digital artists.</p>	<p>Research tessellation and create your own pictures. If possible, you could download the Inkscape program at home to develop your skills with digital Art further!</p>
Religious Education	<p>What do Christians believe about God? In RE, children will be exploring Christianity. They will be learning about Jesus, the main beliefs of the religion, special places within Christianity, religious festivals, the holy book and symbols which are central within Christianity (including their meanings).</p>	<p>Talk to those at home about religion – what are their beliefs and views? It may be helpful to research Christianity further, or even research another major religion to compare it to Christianity.</p>
Physical Education	<p>Over the coming weeks, our PE will focus around health related exercises. This will include cardio fitness work, developing our flexibility and building strength and endurance. We will do this through a series of circuit workouts, fun games and timed activities. As we complete the same circuit at the beginning and end of the topic, we are sure the children will be excited to track their improvements!</p>	<p>Children could carry on these activities at home (where they don't need equipment). They could share them with you and try to beat their own high scores from PE lessons.</p>
Art	<p>This half term, we have a very exciting Art project planned, where we will be learning outside the Classroom – developing sketching techniques, exploring art vocabulary and creating a spectacular final piece using a selection of mediums (creating art that is inspired by both the natural and the man-made).</p>	<p>Encourage children to take time looking at the natural world around them, including colours and textures. They could even spend time learning how to draw trees and leaves accurately.</p>
PSE	<p>Our focus for the next term is health and wellbeing. Our initial focus will be around good team work – what does it look like? We will look at ways to work collaboratively, as well as to recognise and respond appropriately to other people's feelings.</p>	<p>Discuss how being a good team worker will positively impact their life. Discuss their part in the family 'team' and how they can have a positive impact at home. Discuss emotions – how can we tell how other people are feeling?</p>

Class Teachers: Mr Curtis and Mrs Jones

Year: 5

Head teacher: J. Beach

Term: Spring 1