Oak Class NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026

Welcome Back

I hope that you have had a good summer break and are ready for a new academic year.

This newsletter will hopefully give you more information about the Autumn Term and what the children are going to be learning.

If you have any more questions please feel free to get in contact with me through the office or email: oak@newstead.notts.sch.uk

Curriculum

Our topic this term is '**Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?**'
The children will have the opportunity to further their learning from last year, where they studied the Anglo-Saxons. Our focus is to learn how the Vikings, surprisingly, invaded Britain and some decided to settle in Britain. We will then look in detail how the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons lived alongside each other in Britain and what has been the effect on Britain.
In **Science**, we will learn about the impact of the Vikings, settling in Britain, and how this altered the inheritance of British people today.
In **Art**, we will study famous artists, including Katsushika Hokusai and learn new skills and techniques to reproduce works of art using block-printing and over-printing. Our **Design & Technology** will concentrate on the food eaten by Vikings. We will try and reproduce food that might have been eaten by the Vikings and also include information and knowledge about seasonal cooking which the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons would have been subject to. As part of this, we will be eating samples of different types of bread. If there are any allergens that we are not already aware of, please let myself or the office know.
Our English will focus on several books, including: The Saga of Eric the Viking by Terry Jones, Wonder by RJ Palacio, Body Talk by Benjamin Zephaniah and Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman. These books all link to different areas of our topic work and will also provide the children more detail about the characters, settings and how inheritance works. The **Music** sessions will begin with learning some fun and engaging songs relating to the Vikings. We will continue this and learn how to compose and improvise music using instruments.
As always at the beginning of a new year, in **Computing**, it is important that the children are reminded about Online Safety and Cyber-bullying. Once the children know about keeping safe online, we will learn how to produce animated stories using Scratch. In **French** we will develop our French vocabulary and how to read, write and say sentences relating to living in France and shopping in France. In **R.E.** we will look at the scriptures and see what they say about God, the world and human life. Finally, in **P.E.** we will learn skills and techniques for gymnastics and dance and develop basketball and handball knowledge.

PE

PE will take place every Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit in school on these days and earrings can be removed for safety reasons.

Reading at home – For the children to be ready for secondary school, reading is so important and regular practise is actively encouraged. The children should be reading at least four times each week. Please encourage your child to read at home, by making it part of their evening routine and sign their reading diary when they do. I understand that it is not always possible to sit and listen so the children know that they can read on their own and this can be acknowledged by you signing their reading diary.

Spellings – The children should continue to work their way through spelling challenge, that can be found in their reading diary and they will be given new spellings.

Maths – The children should be practising their times tables each week.

As we get closer to Monday 10th May – 13th May 2027 (SATs Week), children will also have additional pieces of work to complete including topic work, consolidation tasks and SATs revision.

Applications for your child's secondary school place is now open.
https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/hub

This needs to be completed before **31st October 2026**.
This is a really important decision and there are Open Evenings at our local secondary schools that I would encourage you and your child to go and have a look to see which school would work best for you. When the flyers arrive at school, we will send them home. Some need you to book a place before you go.
On the link above, it explains in more detail, how the placing of your child will happen. Unfortunately, we have no control of this, this is all done through Nottinghamshire County Council and the secondary schools. We just want the best for your child and will help however we can.
If you would like to discuss this with me, please email or leave a message at the office and I will make time to discuss this important decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our Autumn term. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Can I also thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

John Oldfield