

# Raiders + Settlers

Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term

2025 – 2026

Owl Class



Get ready for an action-packed journey back in time! This term, we're diving into our exciting new topic, *Raiders and Settlers*, where we'll explore the incredible world of Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. We'll uncover the secrets of fierce Viking raids, discover how they built and sailed their powerful longships, and find out why they travelled across seas to new lands. We'll also step into the lives of the Anglo-Saxons, exploring their villages, beliefs, and legendary stories. Through hands-on activities, drama, and creative challenges, children will bring history to life—whether that's designing their own shields, retelling epic tales, or investigating what life was really like over a thousand years ago. Along the way, they'll think like historians, asking questions, comparing different ways of life, and sharing their ideas in exciting ways. This is a topic full of adventure, mystery, and discovery, and we can't wait to see curiosity grow as we explore this fascinating period together!

## Reading

This term, our lessons will be packed with exciting texts and engaging challenges designed to build strong Upper Key Stage 2 reading skills. Children will explore a wide variety of materials, from gripping fiction and powerful non-fiction to fact files, websites, and even lyrics - helping them become confident, curious readers. We'll journey through fantastic stories such as *The Gaudet*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Running Wild*, discovering new characters, settings, and ideas along the way.

As they read, children will develop important skills including: retrieving key information, making inferences, predicting what might happen next, summarising main ideas, exploring vocabulary in context, and explaining their thoughts clearly using evidence from the text. They will also learn to compare different texts, identify themes, and understand how language is used to create effect.

Through discussion, questioning, and thoughtful exploration, children will build confidence and deepen their understanding of what they read. This is a fantastic opportunity to spark imagination, strengthen comprehension, and nurture a lifelong love of reading!

## Spelling

Read Write Ink will continue to inform our teaching of spelling. We will explore the spelling rules taught in YR5 and YR6 through a variety of methods. We will work on, changing words with suffixes and prefixes, plural nouns, homophones, words ending -cious, words ending -cial or -tial. In addition to this we will practice the YR5, 6 statutory spelling list, which informs the spellings sent home for homework each week. Daily practice of spellings is key when teaching children the complexities of English language rules and exceptions.



## Literacy, communication and language.

This term in Literacy, we'll be exploring the beautifully illustrated text *Paradise Sands* by Levi Pinfold, using it as inspiration to craft our own powerful pieces of writing. Children will step into the shoes of a character to write a vivid first-person narrative, as well as create a compelling warning letter full of atmosphere and tension. Along the way, they will develop key Upper Key Stage 2 writing skills, including using hyphens for clarity, mastering speech structures, experimenting with the subjunctive form, and accurately applying semi-colons and expanded noun phrases to enhance detail and precision.



This half term in Literacy, we will be using the powerful picture book *Rose Blanche* by Roberto Innocenti and Ian McEwan to support our writing. Set during World War II, the book offers a sensitive and thought-provoking introduction to historical themes, encouraging children to consider different perspectives and the impact of conflict.

Through this text, pupils will be writing a diary entry, exploring thoughts, feelings, and experiences. This will help them develop empathy and deepen their understanding of character voice. Later in the unit, they will write a speech; this will support their ability to write with purpose and emotion, while also developing key skills in planning, drafting, and editing their work.

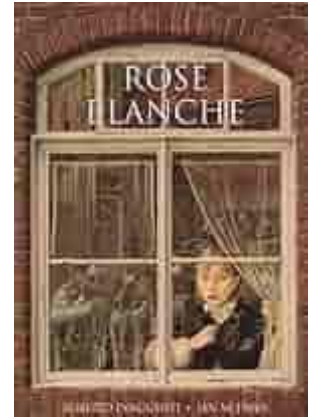


## Our Focus texts;

Paradise Sands

Rose Blanche

Wild Boy



## Maths

At Umerleigh, we use the Mastery Maths approach to ensure a deep and thorough understanding of mathematical concepts. This approach emphasizes not just learning procedures, but truly grasping the underlying principles behind them. Students are encouraged to explore concepts in depth, apply their knowledge to a variety of problems, and demonstrate their understanding through different methods. By focusing on mastery, we aim to build strong, lasting mathematical skills that will support their future learning and problem-solving abilities. We do this through a variety of 'Dive Deeper' tasks which enable the children to view questions and solutions in another way.



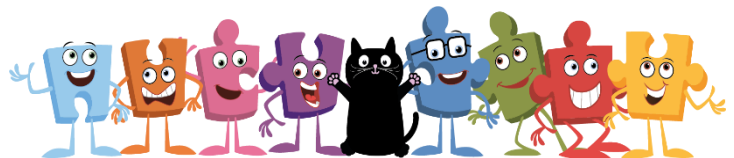
This half term in Maths, we'll be covering a range of important topics while also focusing on consolidating key learning from across the year. We'll begin with measurement, where children will apply their understanding of units, perimeter, area, and volume to solve multi-step problems—helping them develop confidence in real-life contexts.

In geometry, we'll explore angles, coordinates, translation and reflection, as well as the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We'll also be working on statistics, interpreting and presenting data in a variety of ways, including line graphs and pie charts, while sharpening reasoning skills.

As we approach the end of the school year, we'll be placing particular emphasis on revisiting and securing key areas across the curriculum. This will support your child in feeling confident, capable, and ready to transition into their new year group.

## Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE)

This term in PSHE, Owls will be focusing on two important units: *Relationships* and *Changing Me*. In the *Relationships* unit, children will explore different types of relationships, including friendships, families, and online connections. They will learn about healthy communication, resolving conflicts, and the importance of respect, trust and boundaries. We will also discuss how relationships can change over time and how to manage these changes in a positive way.



In the *Changing Me* unit, pupils will learn about the emotional and physical changes that happen during puberty, including body development and reproduction, in a safe and age-appropriate way. We will also explore how change can affect emotions and how to cope with feelings of worry, excitement or uncertainty about the future, including the transition to secondary school. These lessons are designed to support pupils in developing confidence, self-awareness and a healthy understanding of themselves and others.

## Physical education (PE)

Get ready to move, compete, and build confidence in an exciting term of PE! This term, children will develop their skills across table tennis, athletics, and cricket, taking part in a range of energetic and engaging activities. In table tennis, they will learn how to hold the bat correctly, control the ball with accuracy, and develop key techniques such as forehand and backhand shots, serving, and rallying. They will also practise positioning, coordination, and quick reactions during gameplay.



In athletics, children will focus on running, jumping, and throwing. They will develop sprinting technique, pacing for longer distances, and effective baton passing in relay races. In jumping events, they will practise take-off and landing safely, while in throwing, they will build strength and accuracy using a range of equipment.



During cricket sessions, children will learn and refine key batting, bowling, and fielding skills. They will practise striking the ball with control, developing a range of bowling techniques, and improving accuracy when throwing and catching. These skills will be put to the test as we compete against other North Devon schools, with the exciting goal of qualifying for the county competition. Across all activities, there will be a strong focus on resilience, fair play, and cooperation, helping children to grow not only as athletes but as supportive and determined team players.

## Art and Design

This term in Art, pupils will be inspired by the world of Vikings and Saxons to explore a variety of creative techniques. There will be a particular focus on developing drawing skills, including line, shape, and texture, as they study patterns and designs from historical artefacts. Pupils will also have the opportunity to create their own clay Viking faces, bringing characters from the past to life in three dimensions. Through drawing, painting, and sculpting, children will develop their creativity, attention to detail, and an appreciation of how art can tell stories about history.



## Computing

Your children will be diving into the exciting world of programming using micro:bits—small, pocket-sized computers that make coding fun and hands-on. They will learn how to create simple programs that can light up displays, play sounds, and respond to movement and temperature. Through these activities, they will build important skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking, and resilience as they test and improve their ideas. Alongside this, they will explore how to create their own digital media, including images, animations, and presentations, helping them develop creativity and learn how to share their ideas clearly and responsibly using technology.

## History

Step back in time and uncover the stories of the past in our History-focused *Raiders and Settlers* topic! This term, children will explore the fascinating period of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, developing a strong understanding of how these groups shaped Britain. They will investigate when and why the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, and what life was like in their villages, from homes and jobs to beliefs and traditions.

As the topic unfolds, children will examine the arrival of the Vikings—fearsome raiders who later became settlers—and explore the reasons behind their journeys. They will learn about key events such as Viking raids and invasions, as well as how these two groups lived alongside each other over time. Using a range of sources, including artefacts, written accounts, and images, children will develop their skills in questioning evidence, identifying reliability, and building their own interpretations of the past.

Through timelines, discussion, and enquiry-based learning, children will deepen their understanding of cause and consequence, similarities and differences, and historical significance. This engaging topic will bring history to life while helping children think critically about how the past has influenced the world we live in today.



## Geography

As part of our *Raiders and Settlers* topic, children will investigate where these groups came from and how geography influenced their journeys and settlements. We will locate and map key regions such as Scandinavia and Britain, using atlases and digital tools to understand how far the Vikings travelled and why they chose certain routes.



Children will explore physical geography, looking at features such as rivers, coastlines, and landscapes, and how these affected where people chose to live. They will also examine human geography, considering how settlements were formed and how land was used for farming, trade, and protection. Through map work, children will develop skills in reading coordinates, using keys, and interpreting different types of maps.

By comparing locations and environments, children will gain a deeper understanding of how geography shaped the lives and decisions of both Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. This exciting topic will build curiosity about the wider world while developing important geographical skills and knowledge.

## Science



Get ready to explore how living things change, adapt, and survive in our fascinating Science topic: *Evolution and Inheritance*! This term, children will dive into big ideas that explain how animals and plants have developed over time. We'll begin by exploring variation, learning how all living things have differences—even within the same species—and why these differences matter. Moving on to inheritance, children will discover how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring, helping explain why we look the way we do.

As we continue, we'll investigate adaptation, exploring how living things are suited to their environments and how certain features can

help them survive. This leads us to the powerful idea of natural selection, where children will learn how advantageous traits can increase an organism's chances of survival and reproduction over time. Finally, we'll bring everything together by studying evolution, understanding how species gradually change across generations.

Through engaging activities, discussions, and investigations, children will develop their scientific thinking, asking questions, spotting patterns, and explaining ideas clearly. This exciting topic will help them see the living world in a whole new way, uncovering the incredible processes that shape life on Earth!

## Religious education (RE)



This term in RE, Year 6 will be exploring *How does faith help people when life gets hard?* We will explore how faith can provide strength, hope and comfort in difficult times. Children will look at real-life examples of people drawing on their beliefs in times of hardship and reflect on how different worldviews offer meaning and support. These lessons help pupils to develop empathy, understanding and respect for people of all faiths and backgrounds.



## Music

In music, Owl Class will be exploring a range of different genres, helping them to understand and appreciate the variety of styles that exist across the world. They will listen carefully to different pieces, discussing what they notice about rhythm, tempo, and instruments. The children will also have the opportunity to compose their own music, experimenting with sounds and patterns, as well as perform both individually and as part of a group. This unit will encourage creativity, confidence, and enjoyment of music while developing their listening and performance skills.

## French

In French, Year 5 and 6 will be developing their confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. They will learn new vocabulary and phrases through engaging activities, and practise using these in conversations to talk about familiar topics. The children will explore French pronunciation and begin to understand how sentences are structured, helping them to build their own ideas. Through songs, games, and interactive tasks, they will gain a greater appreciation of the language and culture, while growing in confidence when communicating in French.



## How can you help at home?

- Listen to your child read daily and ask them questions about what they are reading to aid their comprehension.
- Practice any spelling homework frequently.
- Engage with doodle learning – this will greatly improve your child’s learning, even if they logon for 10 minutes a day. Research says that your child’s progress will double if they engage with DoodleLearning for 10 minutes each day.
- Encourage curiosity. If your child is studying a topic like Raiders + Settlers, encourage them to explore related subjects through books or videos. BBC Bitesize is often a good way to research our topics.
- Support with school topics like Raiders + Settlers through exploration by visiting local libraries, watching documentaries, or doing research together.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr Lovelass