

Important Dates

Tuesday 5th January – First day back of school
Tuesday 5th January- Homework Celebration Assembly
Monday 1st February to Friday 5th February – Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 4th February – Safer Internet Day
Friday 12th February – Last Day of Term
Monday 22nd February – First day of Spring 2



Year Four Mexico and Nicaragua Spring 1 2020 Curriculum Newsletter



Homework

Homework is posted on Google Classrooms on **Friday** and should be returned submitted on Google Classrooms by the following **Wednesday**. Homework consists of English and Maths tasks that consolidate their learning from the week or get them prepared for the coming week.

We also set spellings for the week that we practice in class each day. Children are tested on these on Friday. Lastly, we send home a sheet of handwriting for the children to practice on.

It is vital that your children complete all these different sections of homework.

Please support your child to do their homework on Google Classrooms if at all possible. Paper copies can be provided to those that need them.

Also, please practise the **times tables** with your child. Our focus this half term are 6X, 7X and 9X and related division facts. Please encourage your child to use the Timestable Rockstars app to support their timetables learning.

It is essential that your child **reads every day**. Reading is a fantastic way for your children to expand their vocabulary, increase their knowledge and improve their writing. *They should complete in their Home Reading Journal at least 5 times a week and should bring it to school every day.*

It is important that your child does their homework – please help them by making sure they have time to do it.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a relaxing holiday and your children are as delighted to be back in school as we are.

We have an exciting half term planned, jam-packed with fabulous learning. As a 'Rights Respecting' school, we will continue to thread children's rights through the curriculum, particularly focusing on well-being during Children's Mental Health Week.

If you wish to talk to us about your child you should ring the office to let them know and we will then call you back.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Warmest wishes,

The Year 4 team:

Ms Kennedy, Mrs Conway, Ms Webb-Strong, Ms Abiose

Alexandra Primary is a UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

~~Article 6 (Life, survival and development) Every child has the right to life and development. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.~~

Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Writing

This half term we will be studying the Anglo Saxon poem Beowulf and using this as a basis for character descriptions and a first person narrative. Following this, we will explore a Horrible Histories book on the Saxons. Finally, we will be focusing on skills for re-telling stories by doing this with Goth Girl by Chris Ridell. We will focus on the skill of using expanded noun phrases, inverted commas for direct speech, paragraphs to organise our writing and fronted adverbials to open our sentences.

Mathematics

As mathematicians, we will be revisiting place value to start with, moving on to fractions and linking them with decimals. We will consolidate our mental strategies for addition and subtraction and then move on to consolidating our methods for formal column addition and formal column subtraction. **Year 4 need to know all the times tables by the end of the year so help from home would be much appreciated.**

History

As Historians, we will be exploring who the Anglo Saxons were and where they came from. We will explore what we can learn about them from artefacts. We will also learn about the kings and queens of those times. Finally, we will discover what Sutton Hoo is and what we have learnt from it.

Science

As scientists, we are looking at the different states of matter – solid, liquid and gas. We will explore what happens to the molecules in matter in these different states. We will work scientifically by carrying out practical enquiries classifying different materials, performing simple test and observing closely.

Reading

We will continue with Destination Reader, a reading programme to develop our reading skills of *inference, prediction, clarifying, summarising, evaluating, asking questions and making connections* through our daily reading lessons.

Computing

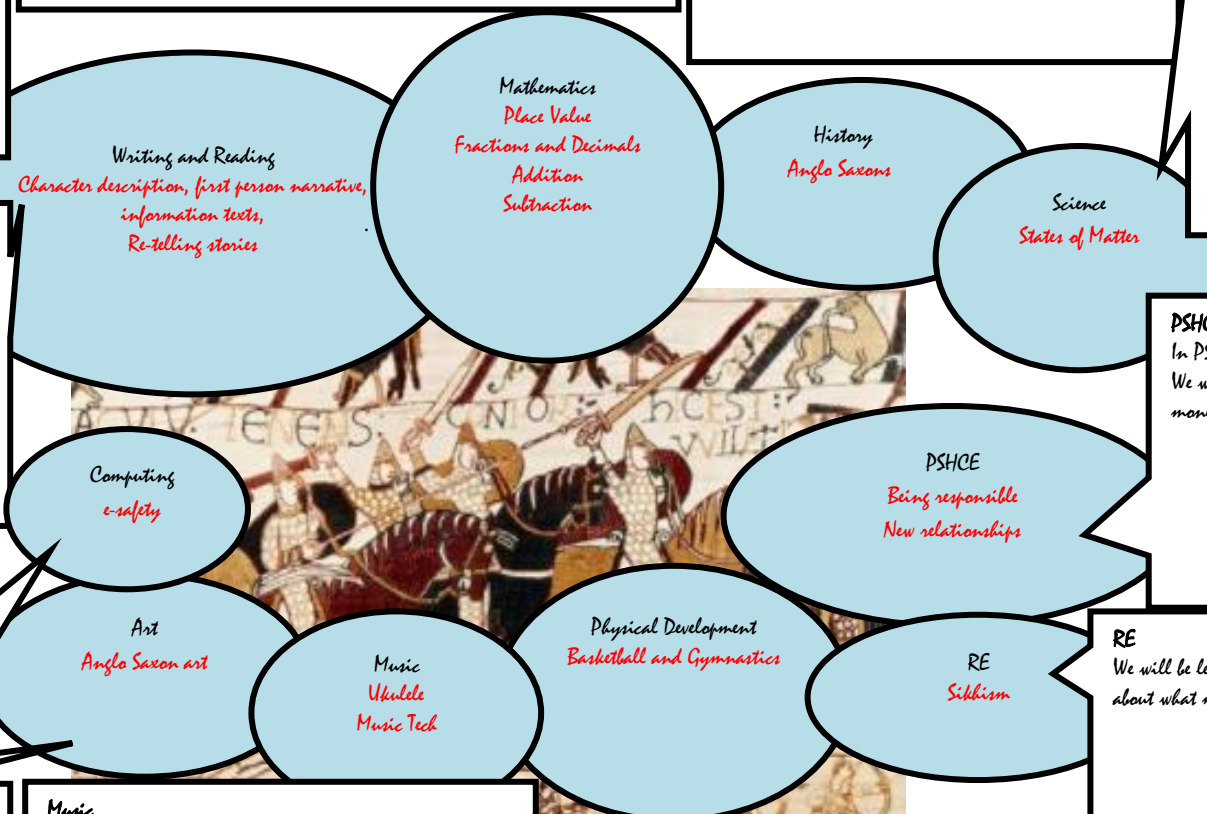
We will be revisiting how to be safe on line and how we grow up responsibly in this digital world.

Art

In Art this half term, we will be using different media (oil pastels and watercolours) to create an Anglo Saxon inspired picture.

Music

Nicaragua will be learning the ukulele this half term. Mexico will be learning discovering music technology.



PSHCE

In PSHCE we will be discussing going for goals. We will be discussing being responsible, saving money and caring for our environment.

RE

We will be learning about Sikhism and particularly about what marriage means in this religion.

Physical Development

Children must bring their **complete PE kit each day they do PE.**
Nicaragua: Monday (basketball) and Wednesday (gymnastics)
Mexico: Monday (gymnastics) and Thursday (basketball)