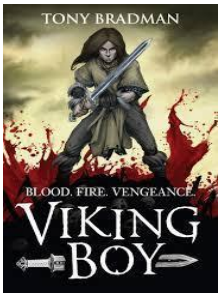
Year 6 Autumn 2 Newsletter 2026

What was the impact of World War 2 on the people of Britain?

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back after a well-earned holiday. During the last half term, the children were very busy learning about Black History Month and the Mojave Desert. These topics have captured the children's imagination and their learning has been fantastic!

We will be using the class reader, 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman throughout this half term.



We will be giving the children many opportunities to develop their independent learning skills.They will use VIPERS skills (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieval, Summarise/ Sequence) to learn about a child, Gunnar, who swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli.

Pupils will use their inference skills to investigate how the boy's life changes when they are raided by Skuli and his WolfMen. Using prediction and retrieval, they will learn how unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.

The children will use this book to help them gain a deeper understanding of Vikings.

Community Values

This half term the Community Values we will be focusing on are **Peace** and **Hope**. We will be promoting these values in our assemblies, and someone from each class will be awarded a Bankfoot Star certificate every Friday for putting Peace or Hope into practice in our school.

Promoting Fundamental British Values

We will be challenging pupils in debates where they will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the fundamental British Values.

Tolerance

Tolerance for diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles is a hallmark of modern British society. The Vikings, on the other hand, were known for their raids and conquests, which often involved conflict with other cultures.

Rule of Law

British values today emphasise the importance of the rule of law and equal justice for all citizens. In the Viking era, justice was often determined through local gatherings and personal feuds. We will investigate how laws are put in place and why they are important to follow.

Individual Liberty

British society today places a high value on individual rights and freedoms. In Viking times, individual freedoms may have been more limited, and social hierarchies were more pronounced. We will look at the rights of different people during this time.

Democracy

We will look at modern British values which include a strong emphasis on democracy, with a parliamentary system and a constitutional monarchy. This system is far removed from the Viking Age, where leadership often depended on the prowess and strength of warriors and chieftains.

Mutual Respect - Respect for others, regardless of their background or beliefs, is a core British value. In Viking society, respect was often linked to one's reputation and standing within the community.

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Spiritual Thinkers

This term, we will investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views.



This unit follows Pathway 5 – Influence and authority. It explores how Jewish people are influenced by many years of tradition and teaching as they celebrate their faith today. This unit focuses on what it is like to be Jewish, exploring beliefs about God; about how ideas of God are expressed in stories, celebration, ritual and action; about the great festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Purim and Hanukkah, illustrating how Jewish communities learn and celebrate together.

SMSC:

Spiritual development comes from considering religious traditions and reflecting on their significance for themselves.
Moral development comes from considering how beliefs have implications for communities and evaluating the significance of these.
Social development comes from exploring questions together and working as a team.
Cultural development comes from engaging with different faith perspectives about festivals and celebrations.

PSHE

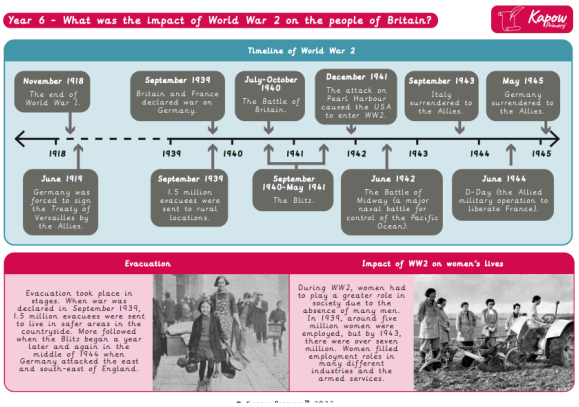
This term, we will focus on health and wellbeing. Children will have the opportunity to explore the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise, hygiene, and the effects of substances like drugs and alcohol on the body. We will address mental health topics eg. understanding and managing stress, anxiety and emotions. We will teach problem-solving skills to help them make healthy decisions and navigate various challenges they may face.

Historians

As historians, the children will be exploring a new unit – what was the impact of WW2 on British people? Firstly, the children will identify the causes of WW2. They will use a timeline to explain what happened and the significance of each of the main events.

They will identify the different phases in the Battle of Britain and make inferences and deductions about photographs. They will describe how children may have felt when evacuated and evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources.

To help make the learning meaningful, they will study how the events of WW2 changed Britain in terms of migration to the United Kingdom, and cities such as Bradford.



Scientists

As scientists, we will be exploring light. In this unit, they will explore how light travels, reflection and how it can be used to help us see. After, they will investigate how shadows change and complete an investigation to show why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Health and Fitness Advisors

The children will continue to develop their fitness this term through a range of physical activities such as gymnastics and dodgeball.

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Writers

In Literacy, we will focus on Literacy and language – Unit 2. This unit explores the power of imagery using the text the 'Rabbit in Mixer Survives.'

The 3 additional poems (The sea, Pike and Fog) provide opportunities for exploring metaphors and similes.

By the end of the unit, the children will be able to create their own extended metaphors and have a firm grasp of how a poet creates layered images.

The children will have the opportunity to write a balanced argument for the question 'Should humans really rule the earth?'

This half term we are aiming for a third of the class to achieve their pen licence.

Artists and Design Technologists

The children will focus on textiles this term, exploring the skill of sewing. We will be applying our understanding of concepts and skills by: designing a waistcoat, looking at the style, material needed, purpose and audience. Then, the children will prepare their fabric and assemble their waistcoat using the running stitch. By the end of the unit, pupils will have designed, assembled, decorated and evaluated a functional waistcoat.

Musicians

As musicians, the students will explore a variety of classroom instruments through an exciting Class Jam experience. They will learn different rhythmic patterns and techniques to perform both individually and as part of an ensemble, using a range of percussion and melodic instruments. Each week, they will explore a different musical genre that features these instruments, investigating key musical characteristics with the aim of being able to recognise some of them by ear by the end of the course.

Linguists

In French, the children will start unit 2 – French footballers. They will use words and phrases to say from which place or country a person comes from and revise all vocabulary from the unit to compete in a vocabulary tournament.

The children will apply their learning by using their knowledge and understanding of football related vocabulary and phrases to create their own football player profile.

Computer Scientists

Year 6 will be introduced to creating websites for a chosen purpose. Learners identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process, learners will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.

Mathematicians

Using the White Rose scheme of learning, the children will recap their prior learning of topics such as number and place value; read and write numbers up to 10 million, order numbers including decimals and the four operation methods. They will explore fractions where they will learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide mixed numbers and proper and improper fractions.

Throughout the term, pupils will carry out tests to help increase and improve their fluency and understanding of mathematics.





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My Happy Mind

Celebrate

During this module, your children will learn all about the importance of character strengths.

Key learning points include:

- We all have character strengths and we use them in different situations, we can also call these our superhero strengths.
- What the different character strengths are and what they mean.
- How children can use their strengths to be their best selves
- How to practise using these different strengths.



Behaviour

At Bankfoot, we encourage children to always be their best, knowing it supports their learning and creates a positive school environment. Guided by the ***Bankfoot 4***—*Be Kind, Be Ready, Be Resilient, Be Better*. Children are taught to be considerate, welcoming, and positive in all settings. At the heart of our vision are our **12 Community Values**, which shape our interactions and growth: kindness, respect, achievement, equality, forgiveness, friendship, resilience, peace, hope, determination, gratitude, and positivity.

Speak out. Stay Safe - Tell! Tell! Tell!

We want children to speak out and stay safe. In Year 6, the children are taught this and are regularly reminded to speak to a trusted adult about any of their concerns. We also have a worry box which allows children to express their feelings in a more discreet way, should they feel the need to do so.

Forthcoming events

World Science Day: Tuesday 10 November

Odd Socks Day: Monday 16 November

Cinema Visit: Tuesday 24 November

Class assembly: Wednesday 25 November

Close for Christmas: Friday 18 December

Re-open: Monday 4 January

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – Opening the Door to Imagination

This half term, pupils will take part in a whole-school writing competition inspired by a tiny door hidden within a snow-covered tree. With an unusual footprint and curious objects scattered nearby, who might live behind the door, and what secrets could it hold? Perhaps a magical kingdom, an extraordinary miniature world or a place where anything is possible lies beyond it! Using this intriguing stimulus, pupils will explore their imaginations, develop their own interpretations and create a piece of writing in a genre of their choice. We look forward to seeing the creative pieces of writing our young writers produce and celebrating their achievements at the end of term.



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World Science Day

On Monday 10th November we'll be joining schools and communities around the world to celebrate World Science Day for Peace and Development. This year's theme is **"Common ground through science diplomacy"**.

The Science Gadget Shop is Coming!

To make the week even more memorable, we will be running a Science Gadget Shop packed with exciting pocket-money science curiosities, toys, and small experiments for the children to explore and purchase.

When: Gadgets will be available to buy throughout the week starting on the 10th of November.
Pricing & Details: We will send out a full list of available items and exact pricing closer to the time so you can plan ahead.



Attendance, punctuality and commitment

We want to increase the number of children with 100% attendance and punctuality each half term.

Every day counts.
A day off here and there adds up!

Finally

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child. If you have any queries about your child, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 6 team.