# NORTH MUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Lane, North Mundham, Chichester, West Sussex. PO20 1LA
Telephone: 01243 785502 Fax: 01243 530654

Email: head@northmundham.w-sussex.sch.uk
office@northmundham.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: **Mrs J Carey B.Ed**

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Dear Parents,

'Smashing Saxons and Vicious Vikings'

Welcome to the next school year –Year 5! This letter gives you some information about our work and more general issues so please get a drink and make sure you are comfy because there is a lot to take in!

For most of the Autumn term we will be working on a topic called 'Smashing Saxons and Vicious Vikings' where we will be learning about raiders and settlers.

On Wednesday, 19th September we will be having an Invasion Day – time to dress up (think Saxons and Vikings!!). Dressing up adds a super dimension to a role play day, it makes it memorable and sets the scene. We will be exploring, through role play, life for Saxon people and this, of course, includes battle and invasion. We would love the children to come to school dressed and ready for action!

Our topic takes us to the ancient times of the Saxons leading to when the Vikings settled in Britain. We will study many different aspects in various ways –role play, books, film and pictures. On Tuesday, 9th October we will be spending a day at Butser Ancient Farm where we will take part in Saxon and Viking activities and have the opportunity to explore the ancient grounds, imagining what it was like to live there in Saxon-Viking England! A packed lunch will be needed. For this trip we would like the children to be dressed in their role play day costume (Anglo Saxons and Vikings). **If your child has a hot meal, please do not forget to cancel it.** We will be travelling by coach leaving after registration and will be back before the end of the day. A separate letter will be coming to you at the beginning of term about the trip.

In Literacy we will be covering a range of writing genre and will be using our topic as a stimulus for reading and writing. This will give it more relevance and excitement. We will look at fiction and non-fiction books such as 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo, 'Erik the Viking' by Terry Jones, the Horrible Histories series and Information texts. We will be finding examples of text layout, good punctuation, adverbs, adjectives, description and ways in which an author engages the reader. We will write story openings, rewrite a legend from ancient times and get into role to write rousing battle speeches! We will also learn more about note taking and writing explanations. It's a busy but exciting time! Our class reader will be Podkin One-Ear by Kieran Larwood, a wonderful tale of the gruesome Gorm battling the fabulous Podkin and his rabbit folk. This year we were lucky enough to welcome the author to our school during Book Week.

In mathematics we will be using whole numbers, decimals, negative numbers and fractions. We will look at what each digit represents and order them. We will be working on multiplication tables and use them to work out heads first calculations. We will work on place value, number facts, doubles and halves. We will revise converting clock times and measuring lengths in mm. We will practice standard methods to carry out addition and subtraction calculations too. Phew!

Our science work will involve looking at the properties and changes of materials In ICT we will use the internet for research and to read book reviews about the books we are reading in class. In Lifeskills we will be working on the theme of New Beginnings, thinking about rules, feelings and belonging. Every Monday we will have our French lesson covering the French culture and of course developing our spoken French. PE sessions will be on Mondays and Fridays but sometimes this can change so it is expected that PE kits are in school all week. One of our sessions will be with our PE coaches.

Home Activities: it is expected that children read at home every evening (totalling about an hour -or more, over the week) and that their diaries are signed to confirm this. Remember this adds up to Reading Awards and certificates! Spellings and multiplication tables should be practised each day too –little and often! Spellings will be given on Friday and tested on the following Thursday. Each week there will be a times table test as well. There will be other work related homework too. We hope you will encourage the children to work on these activities as they are designed to be enjoyable and to reinforce their learning at school.

Home Activity: 4th September
DT Project. I would like the children to make a shield or helmet, thinking about materials, colour and pattern. Due in 19th September -role play day (not before, please).
I will always welcome any additional work or research your child completes at home and you can be assured that this will be celebrated and rewarded in the classroom.

It promises to be a lively and interesting term, packed with opportunities which we hope the children will enjoy. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if there is anything else you would like to share or talk about –after school would be the best time. Please remember you are always welcome to pop into our classroom, at the end of the day, to have a look around and see what we have been doing.

Have a super summer holiday –whatever you are up to, home or away. Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 4th . September.

Yours sincerely

***Sarah Gill***

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