



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Derwent Advent I Newsletter

Welcome back Derwent, I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are raring to go!

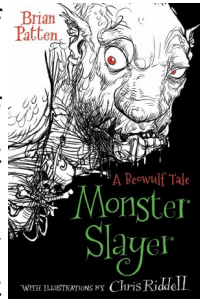
### English

During this half term, we will be exploring "A Beowulf Tale: Monster Slayer".

Monster Slayer is a retelling of the old English poem Beowulf, one of the oldest ever pieces of literature. Beowulf must defeat the terrible monster that is destroying the kingdom after being woken from his ancient slumber. A terrifying battle commences but even in victory Beowulf is not safe - for Grendel's mother the Hag is out for revenge.

We will be using the book to describe settings, explore character traits and motivations, and eventually write our very own "defeat the monster" story.

We will be using links from our guided reading and our history topics to aid in our writing.



### Maths

Using White Rose Maths, we will be covering the following areas of learning;

#### Year Four

##### Place value

- Roman numerals
- 1s, 10s, 100s, 1000s
- Partitioning
- Number line to 10000
- Count in 1,000s
- 1,000 more or less
- Count in 25s
- Compare 4-digit numbers
- Ordering numbers
- Round to the nearest 10
- Round to 10, 100, and 1,000
- Negative numbers



#### Year Five

##### Place value

- Roman numerals
- Numbers to the nearest 1000
- Numbers to the nearest 10000
- Numbers to the nearest million
- Count in powers of 10
- Compare and order
- Round to 10, 100, and 1,000
- Round with a million
- Negative numbers

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### History

This half term we're exploring all about Anglo-Saxons and Vikings:

- Explain when and where the Vikings came from and why they raided Britain?
- Find out about how and why the Vikings invaded Britain
- Compare the significance of some Anglo-Saxon kings during the Viking period?
- Explain when and why Danegeld was introduced?
- identify and explain key aspects of Viking life?

### RE

The Big Question this half term in RE – How does Jesus teach us to love our neighbour?



In Derwent, we are looking at bible stories such as The Story of Moses, The Ten Commandments, and Jesus' teaching the gospel of Matthew. These stories teach us of the covenants that people have made with Jesus and we will be using these to understand how Jesus wanted us to live and love our neighbour. Derwent will continue to take part and lead class 'Celebrations of the Word'.



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### Guided Reading

#### *Viking Boy*

Gunnar is the son of a Viking chieftain, living peacefully on his family steading with his mother, father and their people – until they are raided by Skuli and his Wolf Men, who raze his home to the ground and take his father's life. Gunnar swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli – but first he must run to save himself. Murderous raiders, hand to hand battles to the death, mythical flying wolves and a relentless sea journey to the Land of Fire and Ice... Unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.



### Music



As part of Wider Music Opportunities, Derwent class will be having samba drumming lessons on Wednesdays each week. Don't worry we won't be sending drums home to practise!

### Art / DT

Using their history topic as inspiration, Derwent will be developing their art and DT skills to create runes, shields and longships.

### Science

Properties and Changes of Materials - In this half term, all of Derwent are learning about different materials, their uses and properties, as well as dissolving, separating mixtures and irreversible changes.

By the end of this unit children will be able to:

- Compare and group materials based on their properties, including hardness, transparency, magnetism and ability to conduct heat and electricity;
- Suggest materials for a given purpose, explaining why some materials will be suitable and why other materials will not be suitable;
- explain the process of dissolving and sort materials based on whether they are soluble or insoluble;
- Understand how to recover a solute from a solution using evaporation;
- Separate a variety of mixtures using the processes of sieving, filtering, magnetism and dissolving;
- Explain the difference between reversible and irreversible reactions, giving examples of each.

### How can you help?

This half term, the children in Derwent will have their PE sessions on **Mondays**, so will need to be wearing their full PE kit.

This year, the school has issued new home/school diaries to each child. As with the reading records in previous years, these need to be brought into school every day. Children will also be coming home with a reading book each night. Please help to keep both books in a good, clean condition. Please read with your child daily and sign their diary.

Homework is set on a Monday and is due the following Monday. Please ensure work is completed neatly and stuck in.

Spellings are tested on a Friday, and a new list is given out on Fridays. Spellings can be practised on Spelling Shed and logins can be found in Home/school diaries. Please ensure your child is accessing these regularly at home. It will help to embed their spellings in a fun interactive way. Maths Shed games will help improve fluency particularly with times tables.