St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

History Class 3 Year A
Vikings and Anglo-Saxons
Substantive Concept: Migration/Invasion
Disciplinary Concept: Historical interpretation

Summative Question: Were Vikings really brutal invaders?

This unit will teach us about the raids and invasions by Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. We will learn who the Vikings were, and when and where they raided and settled. We will explore important events from this period and place them in order on a timeline. We will find out about some of the Anglo-Saxon kings who ruled during the Viking Age and learn why they were important in British history. We will also explore the Anglo-Saxon justice system and compare Viking and Anglo-Saxon crimes and punishments with those today. Finally, we will learn about everyday Viking life, including the houses they lived in, the clothes they wore and the food they ate.

During this topic, pupils will discover:

- When and where the Vikings came from and why they raided Britain.
- The names and significance of some of the Anglo-Saxon kings during the Viking period.
- Who King Ethelred II was and say when and why Danegeld was introduced.
- Some key aspects of Viking life.
- How the legal system worked in Anglo- Saxon and Viking Britain.





During this topic, pupils will work historically to:

- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study by knowing who the Vikings were and when and why they raided and invaded Britain.
- Address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance by learning about some Anglo-Saxon kings, how they influenced Britain and how they fought against the Vikings.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information by learning about the later Viking raids, the actions of King Ethelred II and the introduction of Danegeld.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information by learning about and organising information about Viking life.
  Address historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance by learning about the Anglo-Saxon and Viking legal systems and how they are similar and different to the modern legal system in Britain.

Key Knowledge (linked to concepts). What children NEED to know.
Some Vikings did act as **brutal invaders**. They raided villages and monasteries, stealing treasure and sometimes hurting people. These attacks were scary, especially for the **Anglo-Saxons**, who were often the ones being attacked. Many of the stories we have about Vikings were written by monks, so they describe Vikings as cruel and violent. However, Vikings were also **settlers, farmers, and traders**. Many stayed in Britain, built homes, worked the land, and lived alongside the Anglo-Saxons. They set up towns, traded goods, and followed laws. Archaeological evidence, like houses, tools, and everyday objects, shows that Viking life was not always about fighting.

Prior Learning: Migration/Invasion: Changes in living memory – food (KS1)
Connectivity: Crime and Punnishment (KS2)

Key Vocabulary		
invasion	runes	wergild
settlement	interpretation	Danegeld
migration	King Ethelred II	Danelaw