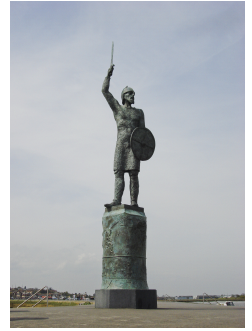




Lower Key Stage 2 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2026



Dear Parents and Children,

Happy New Year to you all! Although it seems a long time ago now, we hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and are now ready for 2026!

Our topic this term is Invaders & Settlers. For the first part of the term, we will be learning about the Romans, and chronologically, we will be carrying straight on from the end of the Iron Age, where we finished our previous topic in December. As you know, we will be taking the children to Colchester Castle on 19th January 2026 as part of this topic, which is always an exciting trip and will really enhance their learning. You will have seen an email with a letter showing details of how to give permission for your child to attend the trip and how to pay for this using the School Gateway App. You can also access the letter on the school website [here](#). After half term it is all about the Vikings, focussing on Beowulf, and of course, the Battle of Maldon. There will be further details to follow later in the term about our exciting re-enactment day, but the provisional date we are hoping to do this is 17th March 2026. Full details of each of these topics can be found on our school website [here](#).

Reading

Reading is a key skill. It impacts on all areas of the curriculum. Confident & fluent readers are usually confident & fluent writers. It improves concentration, focus and of course, knowledge. We would like you to hear your children read at home as much as you can, ideally every day, and record this in the reading record. The children can record in the reading records too. Whilst many of the children are becoming more fluent & independent readers, the development of their comprehension is crucial. It is fantastic that lots of the children are reading to themselves, but it is also crucial that adults are asking them questions about their reading too, to ensure that they are understanding. **Please keep hearing your child read at home - this really is the most important thing that you can do to support your child with their schoolwork.**

PE

Please ensure that all the children have a full, named PE kit in school. This is the "cold term" so they will also need tracksuits. Please note that it is not appropriate for the children to do PE in their regular school jumpers as if they get wet, they have nothing to change back into. All of the children will have PE with Mr Marks on Thursdays. They will have one further lesson per week with their class teacher, so kits really do need to be in school please. Spare socks for the girls who wear tights are also a good idea. Also, following Essex Local Authority guidance, children must take out their own earrings before PE. Unfortunately we are not able to assist them with this so if they are unable to take them out independently they will need to miss that session. Alternatively, please could they be taken out before school on a PE day.

Times Tables

As I am sure that you're aware, all of the children have logins for Times Tables Rockstars. It is good to see lots of children logging in regularly to this program, and it will certainly help them with their quick tables recall.

Spellings

The children continue to have weekly spelling homework. New words lists will be set each Monday. We will work on the lists in class, but the children should also be practising these words regularly (3x per week) at home. Unfortunately, a significant number of children are not practising their spellings at home, which we would really like to see improving.

Contacting Staff

If there is anything that you need to discuss, please don't hesitate to speak to us. The quickest & best way to get a message to the staff is through the school office, via their email or phone. You can also email the Y3/4 team directly on year34@allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk but please be aware that this email will not be monitored out of school hours or whilst we are teaching.

Reminder

Please ensure that the children are in school in good time. We complete the register at 8.45am so that we can start our day promptly, therefore they should be in class by then. If pupils arrive later than 8.45am, then they must enter school via the front entrance, not the classroom door, which will be locked. Children should be collected at 3.15pm. Please ensure that you are collecting at this time as we do have a number of pupils who are collected later.

Thank you

Thank you as ever for your continued and much valued support, we are really looking forward to another brilliant and exciting year with the children and have planned lots for them to look forward to. As ever, if you have any queries do not hesitate to speak to one of the team.

The Year 3/4 Team