



North Cotes C of E Primary School  
Sea Lane  
North Cotes  
Grimsby  
DN36 5UZ  
Telephone 01472 388379

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Newsletter: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

We are delighted to welcome all of our children and families to school this term, ready for the start of the new academic year.

As your children start the new school year, they will be focusing on the basics of settling back into the school routine and establishing our high standards and expectations that exist across the whole age range.

Each morning, Mrs McGrath will greet all of our children at the main front door as they arrive, and now that we have settled in, we kindly ask that if you have any messages or questions then please speak to Mrs McGrath or Mrs Rodwell in the first instance so that teachers can start lessons promptly.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September: New Reception Parent Meeting at 3.20pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September: Macmillan Coffee Morning – Parents invited from 9.00am until 10.30am

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Joint Harvest Festival Service at St. Lawrence Church, Fulstow – Parents invited at 1.30pm

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Wrates School Photographs 1.15pm

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October: Parents Curriculum Evening at Fulstow School from 3.30pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October: Mr Grant to host a Coffee Morning for Parents 9.00am

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Non-uniform day to raise funds for NSPCC

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October: End of Term

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Term 2 Begins

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Service

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Parents' Evening (2pm until 5pm) – more details to follow

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November: Children In Need – more details to follow

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Performance – more details to follow

\*\* Please note – as is the nature of schools, all dates, timings and events are subject to change. We will do our best to update you of any changes as soon as possible \*\*

### **Attendance**

#### **Whole school attendance to date 96.33%**

Polite reminder, you must contact the school by 9.15am on the first day of any absence to explain the reason why. Contact each subsequent day by 9.15am if absence continues. This is a safeguarding matter so that all parties know that your child is safe.

**In addition, please make every effort to make medical appointments out of school time. If this is not possible, provide a copy of a medical document confirming the appointment prior to the appointment taking place.**

## **Communication**

Polite reminder, please could you look inside your child's school bag each night to check for letters and updates. As previously communicated, we have now transferred our notices to ParentHub. This is a free app to download on your phone and ensures all communications are received directly by parents as they are sent out. It is our hope that we will have a paperless communication system. Please follow the attached guidance to set up the app.

## **PE**

As PE is a very important part of our curriculum, please could you ensure that your child has a PE kit in school every day, and all items of clothing are labelled. Please note that when children participate in PE on a particular day, children should attend school without earrings (staff cannot help children take earrings out).

## **Nail Varnish**

Nail varnish is not permitted; please ensure that it is removed before you send your child to school.

## **KS2:**

**Topic:** We have had an exciting launch to our new topic, travelling to York to visit the Jorvik Centre to learn all about Vikings. This term, we will be studying the Dark Ages and finding out about the life of Saxons and Vikings.

**Science:** This term, children will compare and describe different kinds of rocks. They will also describe how rocks are formed, and recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

**Spellings:** Children will be sent home with spellings to learn each week. Y5/Y6 will need to learn their spellings for the following Tuesday and Y3/Y4 will need to learn spellings for the following Thursday. Please ensure that they have their spelling book in school every day.

**Reading:** When appropriate, reading books for all KS2 children will be changed on Mondays. Please ensure that your child is reading on a daily basis and that they are keeping a record of their reading. Reading records will be checked every Monday.

**PE:** KS2 will have PE every Wednesday afternoon.

**Homework:** Please help your child to select and complete at least three pieces of Topic homework from the attached Home learning ideas page. Topic homework should be handed in by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October so that we have to celebrate their learning before the October half-term holidays.

**Homework:** From Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, KS2 will be set homework to consolidate learning in class.

## **Reception/KS1**

Our topic this term is 'Superheroes', and the children have already enjoyed describing their favourite superheroes, as well as role playing and practicing their super poses! Year 1 and 2 will be creating fact files, reading a range of comic books and writing their own. We will learn about real-life heroes from organisations such as the RNLi or Mountain Rescue and from the past, including Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry and David Livingstone, which will allow us to appreciate human bravery. As part of this project, we will explore our senses of smell, touch, taste, hearing and sight and investigate different foods. We will also test our superpowers by climbing, running, jumping and moving to music. There will be opportunities for us to create superhero works of art and to compose superhero soundtracks on digital instruments.

**Spellings:** We will be starting our new phonics programme next week and reception children will begin learning the initial sounds s, a, t, p, i, n and given activities linked to the graphemes to practice at home.

Year 1 and 2 children will continue through the six phases of phonics, using the Monster Phonics programme and will have spellings to learn weekly.

**Reading:** Reception children will be sent home with a wordless reading book initially to get used to looking at the illustrations before words are introduced. Year 1 and 2 will continue to bring home their reading books, and we appreciate your continued support in listening to your child read as much as possible. We will also continue our 'Reading Mountain' challenge, which was a success last year!

**Homework:** Please help your child to select and complete at least six pieces of Topic homework from the Home learning Ideas page in their Homework Books over the course of this term.

### **School Meals**

As parents now order school meals in advance and our school trips have not always been confirmed prior to the order dates and the meal is no longer required The Farm Kitchen has asked that parents email them and request a refund for that particular date.

### **PE Clubs**

We are pleased to advise you that our school clubs have now commenced and are as follows:

Artiez Dance Club takes place on Tuesday mornings at 8.00am – 8.45am

Multi-Activity Club takes place on Wednesday mornings 8.00am – 8.45am

After-school Sports Club takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15pm – 4.15pm; the activity for this term is football.

If any child would like to attend please ask at the school office for a permission slip – all welcome!

### **Breakfast Club**

At present, we do not have anyone signed up for breakfast club but it is a service that we can offer. If you feel that it is something you would be interested in, please speak to Mrs Rodwell so that we can ensure that we have staffing in place.

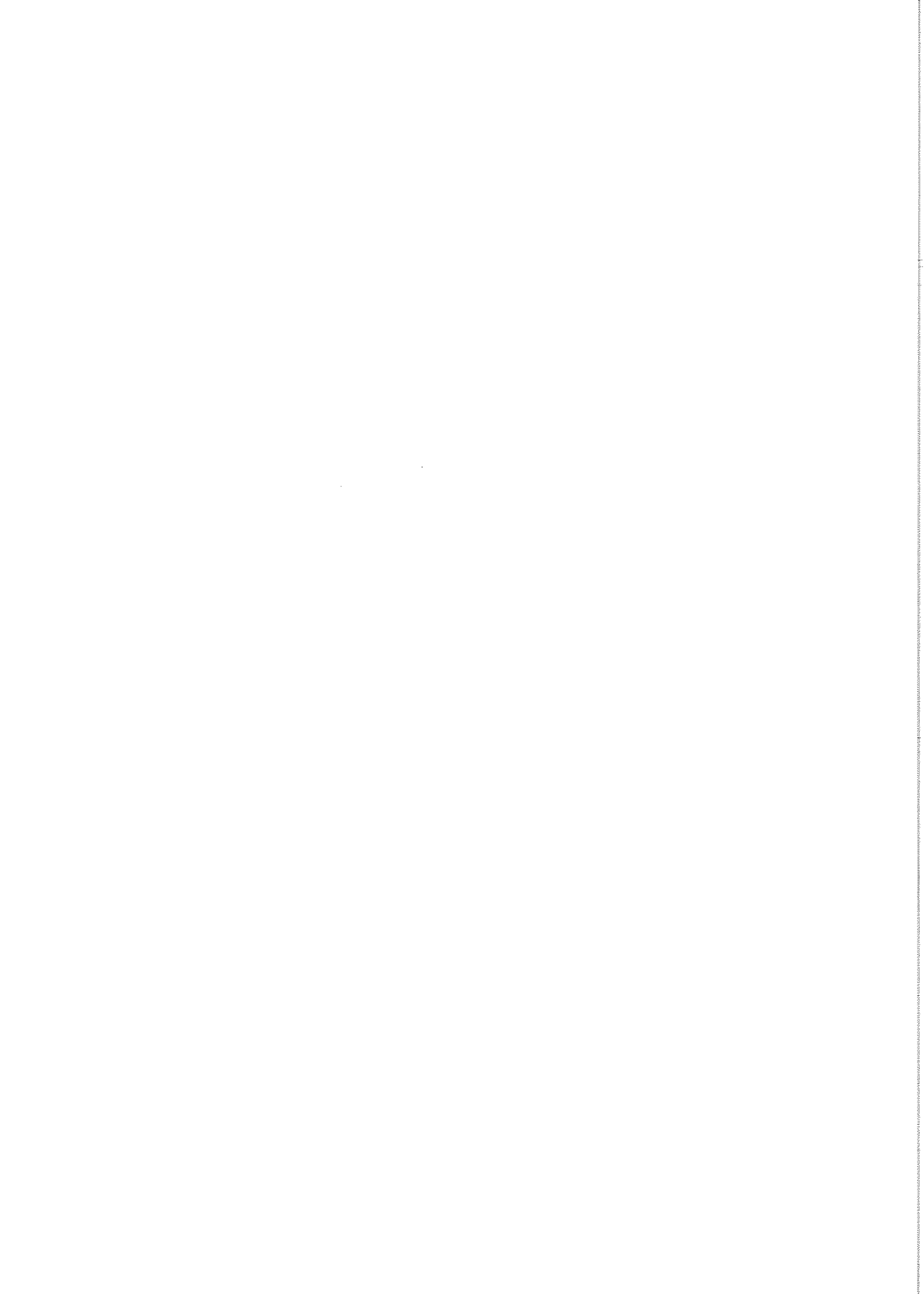
### **FONCS**

Friends of North Cotes School are a vital support for our children in school. In the past years we have raised money to subsidise trips, swimming and most recently have raised over £200 for new books for the school. We would like to invite you to a welcome meeting to discuss how we can help the school this year with events and raising funds. As you can appreciate we are a small school and as staff we really appreciate your support which will help to enhance the curriculum for your child/children.

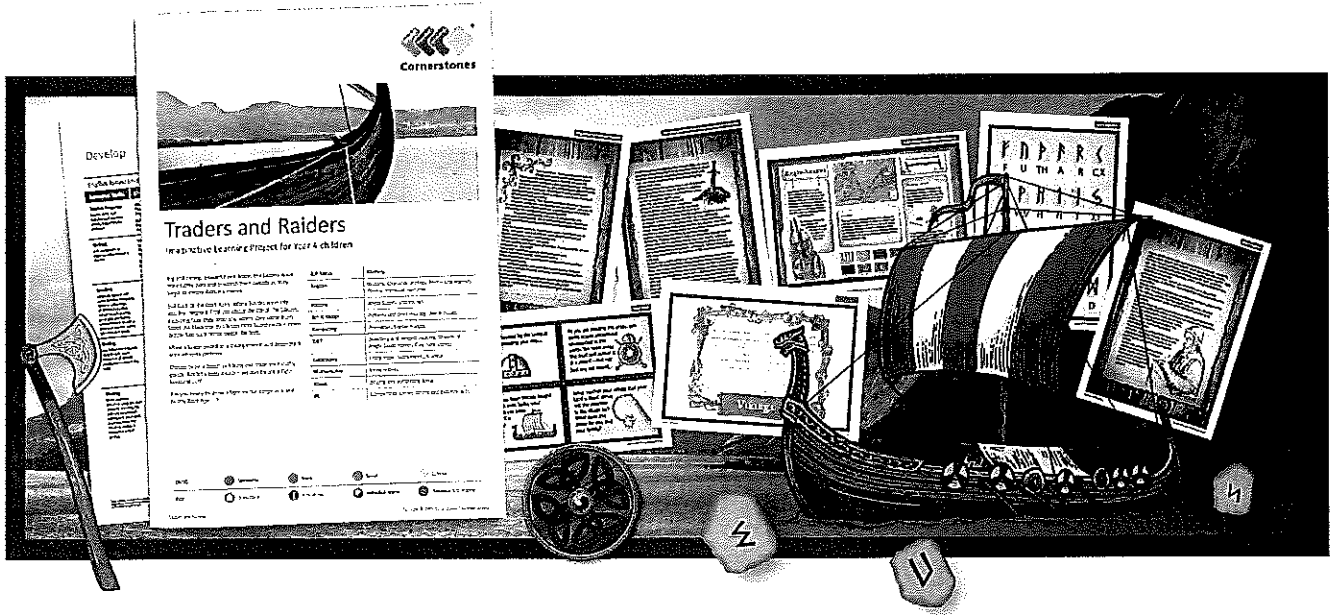
Thank you for your continued support.



Mrs J Milnes  
Base Lead and Class Teacher



# Traders and Raiders



Who's that waving axes and brandishing swords? It's the Saxons invading Britain's shores!

During this half term, we'll start by making sturdy boats to sail the ocean's fearsome waves. We'll write reports as an onlooker who witnessed the Saxons' landing, and we'll find out about key dates. Using online maps, we'll plot the location of Roman shore forts and draw our own sketch maps. We'll make models of Saxon weaponry, homes and jewellery and carefully carve runes using clay tools. When we learn about the Legend of King Arthur, we'll retell the story, and write character portraits about Alfred the Great. We'll write poems praising King Olaf, making sure they are complimentary, and learn about the everyday lives of the Saxons and Vikings. Using maps, we'll identify the places where the invaders came from and locate viking invasion sites. We'll research Viking beliefs and take part in a scrumptious Viking feast.

At the end of the project, we'll reflect on what it would have been like to be a child during these troubled times and invite you to a Saxon and Viking art exhibition.

ILP focus	History
English	Reports, character profiles, myths and legends, poetry, historical narrative
History	Anglo-Saxons and Vikings
Art & design	Patterns and print making, sketchbooks
Computing	Animation, digital images
D&T	Jewellery and weapon making, models of Anglo-Saxon homes, clay rune stones
Geography	Using maps, settlements, Europe
Mathematics	Using money
Music	Singing and composing lyrics
PE	Competitive games, attack and defence skills

## Help your child prepare for their project

Watch out – the Saxons and Vikings are invading! Why not visit your local library together to see if there have been any Saxon or Viking invasions in your area? You could also find out more by visiting your local museum to explore Saxon and Viking connections further. Alternatively, read books and watch films together to gain an insight into this period, such as *How to Train Your Dragon*.

## What will you choose to do?

- Visit your local library and find out about any Saxon or Viking invasions in your local area or county.
- Try making Anglo-Saxon bread or Viking flatbread (search online for recipes).
- Look at King Alfred's pledge: 'I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works'. Write a pledge – how would you like to be remembered in the future?
- Look at images of Anglo-Saxon coins. Can you design a coin? You could draw a picture or use modelling clay or other materials to make your coin look like metal – use your imagination!
- Do some research about Viking names and their meanings, and make up some suitable Viking names for your friends and family. Remember to describe something about each person's appearance or characteristics.
- Research some simple Viking embroidery patterns. Using a needle and coloured threads, embroider a small handkerchief. Maybe you could give it to someone as a present?
- Look at animals in Viking art (search online for the Urnes or Jellinge styles). Can you design and draw an imaginary beast to make a fantastic pattern?
- Find out more about the Futhark alphabet (also known as the runic alphabet), used by the Vikings. Write a short message using the runic characters. Vikings wrote on wood, bone and stone. What will you use?
- Listen online to someone speaking Old English or Old Norse. Can you recognise any of the words? Can you learn how to express a greeting or phrase in one of these ancient languages?
- Imagine you are a Viking skald or poet. Create a poem to sing the praises of a friend or family member.
- Dress up in a typical Saxon or Viking costume. Are you a farmer, warrior, child or tradesperson? Red and gold were favourite colours, but poorer people might not have been able to afford to dye their cloth.
- Find out about real treasure (often known as hoards) discovered from this period. Sutton Hoo and the Staffordshire Hoard are good examples. You might find information on hoards close to your school. However, exact locations are often kept secret. Can you think why?