



Rye Community Primary School

"A Gateway to learning"



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to term 3! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Well done for a great start to the New Year.

Term 3 Learning in Year 5

This term our topic is '**Peasants, Princes and Pestilence**'. In this topic, we will be exploring the dark and deadly world of 14th century Britain, closely focusing on the Black Death. There will be opportunities to study sources, read and write historical accounts, as well as discovering the grim effects of bugs and bacteria on the human body!

PE

Mr Sayer will take the children for P.E every Monday. Please ensure that your child has a **named** P.E kit.

Mathematics

We will be starting the term by working on area and perimeter. This will then be followed by practising formal multiplication and division strategies. We will then apply these newly-learnt skills to tackling real life word problems.

How you can help your child

- Look for opportunities to talk about maths in the everyday environment.
- Encourage children to explain the key maths vocabulary they have learnt during that week.
- Support with any maths homework.
- Support with learning the multiplication tables that they are working on in class (up to 12 x).
- When possible, allow your child to access Times Table Rockstars to aid their times table recall.

English

The book we are studying this term is '**Children of Winter**' by **Berlie Doherty**. We will be continuing our 'VIPERS' reading comprehension alongside our class text and a wider range of non-fiction too. Please continue to help your child by looking at the key reading skills, and encouraging them to infer, predict and summarise from a text where possible. We will begin with diary entries, looking at first-hand accounts of what life was like during the 14th century. Afterwards the children will be writing formal and informal letters, before finishing the term by creating their own medieval stories.

How you can help your child

- Make sure your child reads daily. Don't forget to record reading sessions in the Reading Record booklets, especially on a **Wednesday** evening.
- Discuss meanings of any new vocabulary they come across.
- Support with any English homework and spellings that they are working on in class.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Brunton and Mr Thomas



bacteria

Microorganisms that can cause disease.

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banquet

A huge, formal feast, often with extravagant food and entertainment.

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Black Death

The name given to the bubonic plague that killed nearly half of the population of Europe and Asia during the 14th century.

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Canterbury Tales

A famous collection of stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer that describe the journey of a group of people who travelled as pilgrims to Canterbury.

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chivalry

The rules that knights lived by, that placed a high value on courage, kindness and honour.

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contaminate

To make something poisonous or impure.

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Flagellants

A group of people who thought the plague was a curse from God. They whipped themselves in public to show God that they were devout believers.

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heraldry

A system that enabled knights to be identified on the battlefield by their coats of arms.

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illuminated lettering

Important letters in early manuscripts that were enlarged, decorated and coloured.

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infection

A disease caused by harmful microorganisms in a part of the body.

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jousting

A sporting contest from the Middle Ages where knights would fight on horseback with lances.



knight

In the Middle Ages, a knight was a chivalrous man who held a special military rank and trained to fight as a soldier on horseback.

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medieval

A term used when referring to the Middle Ages.

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Middle Ages

A period in history lasting from the 5th to the 15th century.

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monastery

A building in which monks lived together as a religious community.

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peasant

A poor farm worker or tradesman who had a low social status and few rights.

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pestilence

A very serious and infectious disease, such as the Black Death, that spreads quickly and is often fatal.

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rodent

A type of small mammal with large, sharp front teeth, such as rats and squirrels.

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serf

A medieval servant or labourer who was bound to obey and work on the land of a lord, and was treated as part of his property.

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squire

During the Middle Ages, a squire was a young servant to a knight who hoped to become a knight himself.

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symptom

A change that shows that a person is ill or becoming ill. For example, sneezing and a runny nose are symptoms of a cold.

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timeline

A line showing a period of time on which important events and dates are marked.



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Lock your doors and pull up the drawbridge: the dreaded 'Great Pestilence' is here.

At the start of this half term, we'll meet a strange character and use a range of source materials to research the symptoms of the Black Death. Our geography skills will help us understand how the black death came to Britain and why it spread so quickly. We'll investigate the effects of bacteria on the human body and find out about disgusting and dangerous plague 'cures'. Our personal plague journals will record the horror of the black death and we'll write poetry inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer. We'll learn about the 'dance of death' and perform dances inspired by Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*. We'll learn about different social classes, understand the reasons for the Peasants' Revolt, take part in a mock battle and learn what it was like to be a knight.

At the end of the ILP, we'll find out about the Black Death through history and make a timeline of outbreaks around the world. Observing live domestic rats will help us to learn about their characteristics and life cycles. A medieval tournament will also be held to showcase our knowledge of medieval knights and demonstrate our jousting skills.

ILP focus	History
English	Stories, journals, poetry, persuasive speech, letters
History	14th century Britain
Computing	Collecting, evaluating and presenting data and information
D&T	Sketchbooks, printmaking, historical recipes
Geography	Using maps
Mathematics	Position and direction
Music	Composing and singing
PE	Dance, historical games, battle reenactment
Science	Living things, germs and bacteria



What will you choose to do?

- Search your local library to find out if the plague of the 14th century affected a village or town near you. What information can you find out?
- Write a letter to a child of the 21st century, imagining you are a peasant child of the 14th century. What could you tell them about your life?
- Design a coat of arms for your family. What symbols would you use and what would they represent? What would be your family motto?
- Find out what happens when something decomposes. Place an apple core, orange or grape in a transparent container and watch as it decomposes. Document what happens.
- Use a map of the UK to identify castles of the Middle Ages. Make a scrapbook or journal to research facts about one of them. Be prepared to present your scrapbook to others.
- Make a model rat out of papier mâché. Paint it to make it look realistic. Take a picture of your rat in different places but try not to scare anyone!

