



Year 5 – Anglo- Saxon visitor in school

March 2024

An inspiring, activity-based workshop that brought the Saxon period to life. The children had a day off timetable where they experienced Saxon England, from the hierarchy and etiquette of the Lord's Hall, the language and the story of Beowulf, through to the burial of a Saxon king. This themed day helped the children to learn more about our History topic, 'Smashing Saxons and Vicious Vikings.'

Before the visit, the children were shown dressing up ideas for making costumes and accessories for the workshop, which they then made at home. The results were amazing! We then started off the day in the school hall with an introduction from Bjorn (the Anglo- Saxon visitor), followed by a storied timeline covering: The end of Roman rule, The coming of the Angles/Saxons and Jutes, The seven kingdoms, Conversion to Christianity, Viking attacks and the end of Anglo-Saxon England with the battle of Hastings.

Before lunch, we went back into our classrooms for an interactive quiz, a riddles competition and a game of 9 Man's Morris - an Anglo-Saxon board game. The children were resilient when completing the work and received team points for their effort during the quiz. After lunch, we went back into the hall for an interactive talk on Anglo-Saxon weapons and warfare followed by recreating the battle of Hastings. The children were respectful and listened well to our visitor so the day finished with a fun javelin throwing game. The whole experience was interactive and enjoyed by all of the children.

The next day, the children did a free choice piece of writing all about the day, where they demonstrated their new learning including that there is no evidence that the Vikings wore horned helmets, and nothing like this has ever been discovered in any archaeological dig! The children found it interesting to learn that they certainly wore helmets but they would have been simple skullcaps, designed to protect the head from impact. The Year 5 pupils commented that they, "Really enjoyed working with Bjorn and especially enjoyed the battle reenactment during the afternoon."

