

## Owl Class Visit to Ufton Court

### History Enrichment – Vikings (Year 5/6) Wednesday 24th September 2025

On Wednesday 24th September 2025, Owl Class (Year 5/6) travelled back in time to 960AD during an immersive history visit to Ufton Court, as part of their learning about the Viking invasion and settlement of Britain.

From the moment the day began, pupils were plunged into the dramatic world of the Vikings, joining the fearsome forces led by King Bagsec, who were preparing to seize control of Wessex. This powerful historical narrative provided a meaningful and memorable context for pupils to explore Viking life, culture and conflict.

#### Experiencing Viking Life First-Hand

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a wide range of authentic, hands-on activities using carefully reproduced historical equipment, allowing them to apply classroom learning in a real-world setting.

Activities included:

- Hand-to-hand combat training, where pupils learned the discipline, strength and skill expected of young Vikings - including the important understanding that girls trained alongside boys
- Building with wattle and daub, giving pupils a practical understanding of Viking housing and construction methods
- Spinning raw sheep's wool into thread and weaving hay into string, helping pupils appreciate the everyday skills required for survival in Viking society

These experiences deepened pupils' understanding of daily life, work, and social structure during the Viking Age, while also supporting teamwork, perseverance and problem-solving.

#### Feast, Trade and Tactics

After a lunchtime feast in the sunshine, fit for any Viking chieftain, pupils boarded a magnificent longship. Working together, they hoisted the oars and rowed across simulated trade and raid routes, collecting goods and treasures from around the Viking world.

A particular highlight of the day was seeing classroom learning come to life as pupils confidently discussed Viking trade networks. Our Viking guide was genuinely impressed by the children's secure understanding of the Volga trade route, which linked Scandinavia to the Land of Rus (modern-day Russia) - knowledge pupils had explored in class earlier that same week.

Their ability to recall, explain and apply this learning so confidently demonstrated excellent retention, historical understanding and curiosity.

#### Curriculum Impact

This visit strongly supported the History National Curriculum, particularly pupils' knowledge and understanding of:

- The Viking invasions and their impact on Anglo-Saxon England
- Viking society, culture, warfare and trade
- Britain's place within wider international trade networks

The experience also contributed significantly to pupils' **cultural capital**, giving them rich, memorable encounters with the past and deepening their understanding of Britain's history within a global context.

Throughout the visit, pupils demonstrated:

- High levels of engagement and enthusiasm
- Excellent behaviour and respect
- Strong historical vocabulary and enquiry skills
- Confidence in discussing and applying prior learning



## History Curriculum Impact Summary

### Intent:

To develop pupils' secure understanding of the Viking Age through immersive, experiential learning.

### Implementation:

- A carefully sequenced visit aligned to classroom history learning
- Hands-on activities using authentic historical techniques and tools
- Clear links made between prior learning and real-world experiences

### Impact:

- Pupils demonstrate strong historical knowledge and recall
- Increased confidence in using subject-specific vocabulary
- Clear evidence of learning retained and applied across contexts
- High levels of enjoyment, curiosity and engagement in history

The visit to Ufton Court was a powerful example of how high-quality enrichment can bring history vividly to life. Owl Class returned inspired, informed and proud of the depth of knowledge they were able to demonstrate — a truly outstanding learning experience.

