Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	The Viking and Anglo Saxon Struggle for England	YEAR 4	TERM

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

The Anglo Saxons had been ruling in Britain for 200 years when in 787AD the first Viking is recorded.

The word Viking means raider or pirate. The Anglo Saxons called the invaders 'Danes'. The use of the word Viking was made popular in the 18th Century.

The Danes invaded Britain in 865AD. King Alfred, his son and grandson were all successful in fighting Viking rule.

However, Viking invasions continued throughout the 9th Century and England passed back and forth between Saxon and Viking kings. It ended in 1066 when Harald Hardrad and William, Duke of Normandy both invaded wanting to claim the English throne.

Key Events

865AD The 'Great Heathen Army' invaded. An army of different groups from Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

866AD The city of York is captured by Danes and named Jorvik.

871AD King Alfred beats the Vikings at the Battle of Ashdown, Berkshire.

886AD Alfred makes a treaty with the Vikings and England is split into two. The North and East become the 'Danelaw' and are under Viking rule.

899AD Alfred dies and his son Edward is King.

927-939AD Alfred's grandson Athelstan is King of the English. Successfully fights the Vikings and his Kingdom included the Danelaw.

991AD Ethelred 'The Unready' tried to pay invading Vikings with gold 'Danegeld' but they took the gold and invaded anyway.

1002 The King of Sweden invades and in **1016** his son Cnut becomes king of England.

1042 - 1066 Ethelred's son Edward becomes King and rules England.

1066 Edward 'The Confessor' dies and Harold Godwinson is named king.

Key Events

September 1066 – Harald Hardrad fights Harold Godwinson at Stamford Bridge and is defeated.

October 1066 William fights the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings and Harold Godwinson (Harold II) is killed. William is crowned King of England.

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

Treaty	A formal agreement made by leaders.
Anglo Saxon/Saxon	The people living in Britain after invading and settling once the Romans left Britain.
Viking	The more recent name used to describe the people who invaded from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The word Viking mean a raider or pirate.
Danes	The name that Anglo Saxons used to refer to people who we would now call Vikings.
Danelaw	The area of England ruled by Vikings.
Heathen	A term used for a non-Christian.
Century	A period of 100 years.

Diagrams



Evidence of the Vikings

King Alfred the Great had the Anglo Saxon Chronicles written in the 9th Century – from this we know some of the history of the Anglo Saxons and the Viking invasions.
http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item126532.html

The Coppergate Excavation was an archaeological dig in the City of York. All kinds of evidence of Viking life was found.

https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/

Place names in the North of England vary to those in the South. Places ending with 'by', 'thorpe' and 'ay' are most likely Viking names.

Reading Museum has a replica of the Bayeux Tapestry which records the Battle of Hastings.
https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/your-visit/permanent-galleries/bayeux-gallery

Possible Experiences

Time line key events with the Saxons and Vikings in Britain.

Explore why the Vikings wanted to come to Britain.

Find out how King Alfred was successful against the Viking.

What Viking life was like in the Danelaw using historical evidence.

Explore why Harald Hardrad and William of Normandy competed to be King of England.

Key Historical Figures

King Alfred the Great	King of Wessex 871 – 886AD and then King of the Anglo Saxons 886 – 889AD
Guthrum	King of Northumbria from 634 – 642AD
King Athelstan	King of the Anglo Saxons and then King of the English.
King Ethelred 'The Unready'	King of the English 978-1013
King Cnut	King of England 1016 – 1035 He is the son of King Sweyn of Sweden.
King Edward 'The Confessor'	King of England 1042 – 1066 one of the last Saxon kings.
Harold II	Harold Godwinson. The last Saxon king of England. Reign from January 1066-October 1066 When he was killed at the Battle of Hastings.
Harald Hardrad	Invade England to take the throne in September 1066. He is defeated by Harold Godwinson.
William of Normandy	Sometimes called William the Conqueror. Becomes King of England 25th December 1066 after defeating Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings