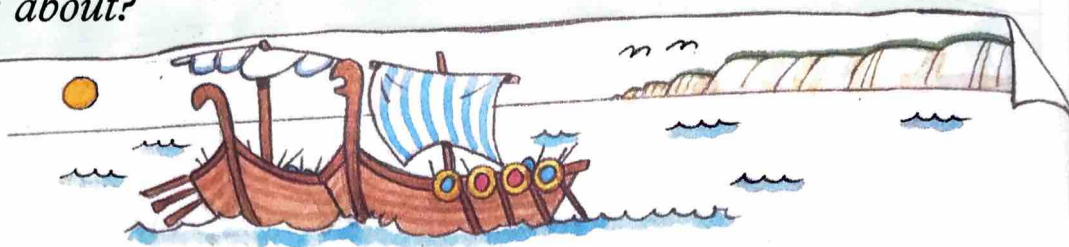


Think ahead

What sort of things does your school write to your parents about?



Dear Parents

A VIKING RAID

As part of the Norsetional Curriculum, we are required to develop the educational experiences of Viking warriors. Your son has the opportunity to develop his fighting skills on our Viking raid to the Baltic Sea. There will be plenty of opportunities for educational plunder and slaughter, and it is hoped that your son will join in all such activities. It must be stressed that bad behaviour on such trips is important for the good name of the Vikings. If your son is not violent enough, he will be sent home and not allowed on any more raids. He will also be thought of as a bit of a softy.

Depart: Dawn, from the jetty at Oslofyord

Return: For those still alive after the raid, we hope to arrive back home in about half a year.

Things to take

Chain mail
Iron helmet (if you can afford one)
Leather tunic
Boots (proper Viking boots, no plimsolls please!)
Cloak
Mittens or gloves
Spare trousers (in case you get blood on the ones you're wearing)

Chest to put all the above in (and to sit on in the ship whilst rowing)
Axe
Knife
Ash wood spear
Double-edged sword
Large round shield
Bow and arrows
Cooking utensils
Water

Lunchbox (dried or smoked fish, smoked walrus meat, cheese, bread)
Comb (to look neat and tidy)
Pocket money (although there will be an opportunity to seize money, slaves and souvenirs from the places we raid)

Yours sincerely
Erik Bloodaxe



PS. No girls allowed. They must stay at home and look after the farms whilst the men are away.