



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School -Willow Class

## The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

**What I should know already-** One of the main reasons the Romans invaded Britain was because of their anger towards the British. The British had helped the French battle against the Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar. Britain also had a lot of resources, riches and land that the Romans wanted. Some native Britons did not like being invaded, however, and Boudicca was a Celtic Queen who led a rebellion against the Roman occupation of Britain. The Roman influence on Britain can still be felt today. Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write. The Scotti, who came from Ireland, were descendants of the Picts, who had earlier invaded Ireland around 200AD. Historians believe that these Irish Scots invaded and took land in Scotland in the 4th and 5th centuries. There were different tribes of invaders (Jutes, Saxons and Angles) that collectively became known as the Anglo-Saxons, although the tribes came from a number of different countries. One of the most famous Anglo-Saxon kings was Alfred, one of the only kings in British history to be called 'Great'.

Gospel Value  
Justice



### Timeline

**793 AD** Vikings attack from Norway. They attack the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.

**871 AD** Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex.

**886 AD** King Alfred agrees a treaty. Alfred keep the west and the Vikings the east which is later known as Danelaw.

**900 AD** The Vikings establish rule over Scotland.

**1014 AD** Cnut becomes king of the Danes and England

**1042 AD** Edward II returns from Normandy to become king of England. He is better known as Edward the Confessor because of his piety.

**1066 AD** The last Anglo Saxon King, Harold, is defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings and Norman Britain begins.

### Key Knowledge

- The word Viking means raider (and they certainly did a lot of that! ) but they were also traders and settlers, especially later in the period
- They attacked England from Scandinavia carrying out raids on monasteries which is why the monks criticised them so much.
- For many years They fought hard against the Saxons for control of England but were stopped by Alfred. They then settled in the East with some becoming kings of England at the end of the Saxon period
- The Vikings raided Britain because they were looking to take over land, lucrative new items to steal and trade. They particularly liked to raid monasteries, like the one at Lindisfarne.
- Over several years the army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and most of Mercia. By AD 874, almost all the kingdoms had fallen to the Vikings. All except for Wessex, which was ruled by Alfred the Great.
- Cnut of Denmark invades and becomes new King.
- In 1044 Edward the Confessor becomes King, passing England back to the Anglo Saxons from the Danes.
- 1066 was a momentous year for England. The death of the elderly English king, Edward the Confessor, on 5 January set off a chain of events that would lead, on 14 October, to the Battle of Hastings

### Key Vocabulary

**chronology-** the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence

**era-** a long and distinct period of history

**Lindisfarne-**also called Holy Island, and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, is a tidal island off the northeast coast of England, which constitutes the civil parish of Holy Island in Northumberland.

**longboat-** is a type of ship's boat that was in use from circa 1500 or before

**Berserker-**a member of unruly warrior gangs that worshipped Odin

**Danegeld-** a land tax levied in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to raise funds for protection against Danish invaders

**Danelaw-** the northern, central, and eastern region of Anglo-Saxon England colonized by invading Danish armies in the late 9th century

**Heathen** person who does not accept a religion that says there is only one god

**Hoard** hidden collection of treasure

**Pagan** person who believes in more than one god

**Runes** Viking writing

**Saga** long story about Viking heroes, spoken at first but later written down

