Year 4 Autumn Term
Rise of the Romans

In September 2023, the Year 4 children begin their autumn term expedition, focusing on the guiding question:

"How much did the Romans really impact Britain?"

Hook

The children will become immersed in Roman Day life, participating in a rotation of activities, including a gladiatorial battle training session, crafting Roman-style coins and exploring different aspects of everyday life, formulating and discovering answers to their own questions. Later on in the term, the children will visit Bradwell Abbey in Milton Keynes, where they will build upon their knowledge and understanding of Roman life by re-enacting a Roman banquet, experiencing what it was like as part of a Roman legion and becoming archaeologists to explore ruins from a Roman villa.

Our Learning:

Through our learning of history (Case Study 1), we will develop our understanding of the Romans and Roman Britain. We begin by exploring the reasons why Romans invaded Britain and the role Julius Caesar played prior to the Romans' successful invasion and conquering. We will be able to make comparisons and contrasts with our previous learning on the Iron Age. Within our lessons, we will become immersed in the everyday life of their society, looking at the achievements and the impact that they have had on Britain. We will study primary sources of evidence about Boudicca and identify why she is such a significant historical figure. We then follow this by exploring Roman housing and the legacy they left behind.

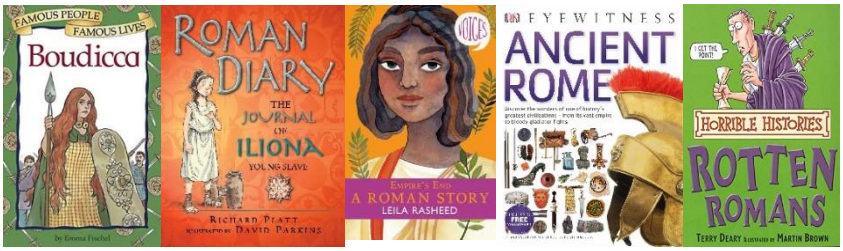
Through art (Case Study 2), we will begin by looking at traditional Roman mosaics and the work of Sonia King before developing our collage skills by learning how to experiment with a range of techniques to create our own mosaics. Later, we will look at the work of different modern sculptors to plan and create our own 3D models to create a festival feast.

Through design and technology (Case Study 3), we will investigate and analyse a range of existing catapults to equip us with the knowledge needed to build our own. Working with our peers, we will measure and cut the doweling by selecting a wide range of practical tools and equipment to complete the product accurately. We will explore the most effective ways to strengthen and support the components of the catapult, ensuring it would be fit for purpose. Once our catapult structure is complete, we will use mechanical systems, namely axles and wheels, to make them moveable. Finally, we will test the catapults by trying to hit targets and evaluate their effectiveness against their original purpose in the Roman era.

Final Product and Family Learning

We will bring all our learning together by creating our own Roman exhibition which will be filled with information about Roman culture and how this has impacted Britain today. Through an informative poster, we will explain why the Romans invaded Britain, illustrate a typical Roman settlement and share our opinions on the biggest lasting impact the Romans have had on Britain today. We will also showcase our individual mosaics and slingshot catapults that the children have created. Our Roman museum will be launched by inviting family members to come in and see our wonderful creations. At the event, the children will become museum guides and share their Roman knowledge whilst explaining their learning during this expedition.

Key Texts

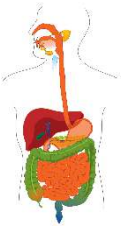


Staff Model Products

Other subjects taught this term

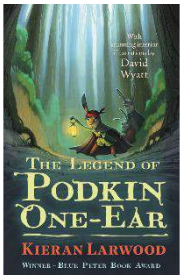
Writing

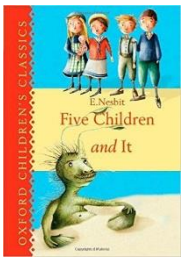
We begin the year with a character description about a gladiator, an explanation text about the digestive system, a narrative based upon 'Five Children and It' and a set of instructions based upon the perspective of a captured Roman soldier all linking to our learning across the curriculum so the children can draw upon their growing knowledge.



Reading

We will develop our prediction, retrieval, inference and summarising skills through a range of fiction and poetry texts including 'Flood', 'The Legend of Podkin One Ear', 'Five Children and It' and 'Topsy Turvy World'.





Maths

We will begin by consolidating our place value knowledge for numbers up to 1,000 then learn about negative numbers. We will increase our understanding of Roman numerals then we become more confident with addition and subtraction. Afterwards, we will increase our knowledge of measure, including perimeter. Finally, we will develop our multiplication and division skills including our times table fluency with the 3, 6, 9 and 7x tables.

Science

We will begin with learning about the digestive system in humans and the types of teeth. As a way to investigate tooth decay, we will develop our scientific enquiry skills by predicting the effect of a range of liquids will have on boiled eggs. We will observe them over the course of a week to note any changes and draw our conclusions about which liquids are better for consumption. Then we will move on to learning about electricity, constructing simple circuits and developing an understanding of common conductors and insulators.

PSHE

We will begin the year looking at 'Being Me in My World' which focuses on who we are and how we fit into our world, including recognising our own roles and understanding that our actions can affects ourselves and others. Later on in the term, we will celebrate differences by learning about assumptions and the influences that can lead to them, developing our knowledge of bullying and how it is sometimes hard to spot, identifying what is special about each other and valuing the ways that we are all unique.

Spanish

We will develop our knowledge of the Spanish language including the names of many animals and body parts as well as starting to look at basic descriptive and comparative words and phrases. To practise this, we will take part in lots of conversations and games. We will also recite a nursery rhyme in Spanish, identifying similarities and differences to English.

RE

We will learn more about the Christian religion, learning how religious families and communities practise their faith as well as how they contribute to local life. We will also learn how they respond to global issues and develop an understanding of the reasons why they do this.

Computing

The children will build on their prior knowledge of computing systems to focus more on the internet, learning how networks are physically connected to each other, how networked devices make up the internet before increasing their understanding of the World Wide Web. Then the children will learn about audio production, including how sound can be recorded and edited in order to create a podcast.

Music

We will begin by using a combination of body and tuned percussion to create layers of rhythms to suggest the sounds of the rainforest. Then the children will be introduced to motifs by drawing upon their understanding of repeated patterns in music.

PE

The children will begin this term by raising their fitness levels which will include developing cardiovascular fitness, demonstrating endurance, strengthening core muscles and being able to explain the changes in heart rate. Following this, during dance lessons, the children will focus on a gladiator theme to develop their movement to music, identify and perform in both unison and cannon, create a gladiator motif and to learn choreography to a dance routine. The children will also take part in basketball lessons, developing how to pass and receive the ball as well as pivoting and dribbling with both hands and shooting techniques.