



# What Did the Romans Ever Do for Us?

## As language specialists

The start of the term sees a whole school celebration of Roald Dahl and we will be soaking up the silliness of Mr and Mrs Twit! We will be writing our own character descriptions and maybe thinking of a 'Twit-worthy' prank to write up as their own chapter!

Class 4 will then be reading and engaging with both fact and fiction to expand our knowledge of Roman history. We will meet a number of new authors and a variety of genres to broaden our experience. Immersing ourselves in the ancient Roman culture, living a day in the life of a Roman, we will rouse our creativity and understanding, inspiring us to write from different perspectives. Key authors will guide our writing techniques – Tony Bradman's *Assassin and Empire's End* by Leila Rasheed will teach us about tension writing. With Judith Nicholls, we will open up the world of Roman poetry. We will be looking at rhyming couplets and rhythm for performance from memory. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will be taught in explicit lessons as well as through extended writing projects.

## As geographers we will

Learn about the geography of Britain first and then Europe as we map the area that was conquered by the Romans. We will be learning the main rivers, mountains, seas and coasts of Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa. Understanding Roman journeys will open our eyes to physical features and land use to the present day.

*'Pupils will be taught to locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe seeing key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities...human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources...'*

## As historians we will

Use primary and secondary sources to learn all about Roman invasion. From settlement to life style, celebration to warfare, Year 4 will unearth all that this ancient civilisation has to show us about conquest, significant leaders and the resulting change that shaped British history.

*'Pupils will be taught about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. ...Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BC; the Roman Empire by AD 42 and the power of its army... British resistance, for example, Boudica'*

## As scientists we will

Investigate states of matter from ice to water and steam. We'll be learning how science helped the Romans to keep their wine at the right temperature and we'll be freezing and insulating the Italian mountain snow for the summer season. Other practical investigations will enable us to establish fair tests and draw conclusions from our observations.

*'Pupils should be taught to: compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature...'*

## The Big Idea...

*'Those who read about the Romans get to know not the history of one city but also mankind' Florus.*

In this half term topic brimming with historical fact and gripping fiction, Year 4 will be considering how the Roman civilisation influenced the society we live in today. We will be recreating aspects of Roman life immersing ourselves in the food, fashion, art and pleasures of Roman Britain.

The topic will also give us chance to consider what a European Empire might look like today? How would British values stand? ... Would Boudicca have been proud of modern Britain? Questions that we will, no doubt, be able to answer by the end of the topic.

## As mathematicians we will

In maths we will be working on place value and the number system to get us started. We will be able to partition and round numbers with increasing accuracy above and beyond 1000. We will become fluent in different methods for addition, and subtraction focusing both on our mental calculations as well as the formal written method using columns. Of course, we will also be learning to read, write and work with Roman numerals and will probably end up feeling quite lucky that we didn't go to school in ancient Rome!

## Across the curriculum

**As musicians** – We will be coming back together and experiencing the power of music through singing.

**As expressive artists** – we will be using our sketch books to record a study of Roman portraiture, both sculpture and relief. We will be comparing this to more modern techniques of artists such as Alberto Giacometti, and creating pieces inspired by his work.

**As PSHE experts** - we will learn about healthy relationships. How we should treat our friends both face to face and online. When teasing goes too far and when it is ok to break a confidence.

**As fitness experts** – we will be exploring movement, developing flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance in gymnastics. Children will be performing a sequence of movements on the floor and low level apparatus with travelling sections in between.

## As philosophers

In Religious Education Year 4 will be understanding more about the journey of life. This touches on aspects of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Humanism.

## Knowledge of the World

By the end of the half term, children will understand the impact of Roman history on modern Britain. They will understand how great leaders come into power.

## Citizenship and British Values

By learning about a Roman's way of life we will understand how an organised civilisation functions. What similarities exist in Britain today and how do we structure society so that it works democratically for all.

## Ambitious thinking

Could an invasion as strong as the Romans resurface? Would America's ideas of 'building a wall' really keep invaders out? If so, how does the future look?