

Literacy

The children will create appealing information texts entitled 'The Ruthless Romans' or 'What the Ruthless Romans did for us.' They will write at length about the different Roman Rulers, the life of Julius Caesar and the legacy of the Roman Empire, including a number of inventions that we still encounter today.

The children will read myths about the Roman Gods and Goddesses, before re-telling these in their own words. In particular, they will look at the legend of 'Romulus and Remus,' which the Ancient Romans considered to be a true tale of how the city of Rome was founded.

Finally, the children will put themselves in the shoes of a child in Pompeii during the eruption of Vesuvius. With a focus on the senses, they will develop the 'show don't tell' skill, ready to write a diary entry in role as a child living through the events!

History

The children will learn about the Roman Empire. Largely preserved under the ash, the children will find out about how the excavated city of Pompeii offered a unique snapshot of Roman life, frozen at the moment it was buried and preserved for hundreds of years. We will look at archaeologist digs as one way of finding out about the past. We will use artefacts as a source of information about how the Romans lived thousands of years ago.

We will focus on the Roman Empire's impact on Britain: attempted invasions, why we were so difficult to conquer, the power of the Roman army (numbers, weapons, organisation), the successful invasion by Claudius, the construction of Hadrian's Wall (to keep out the Scottish Picts), and the 'Romanisation' of Britain. We will find out Roman inventions (central heating, roads, aqueducts, concrete, mosaics, spas).

Geography

The children will learn about the expansion of the Roman Empire, identifying which present day countries it included at its height. They will find out about Mount Vesuvius, the volcano located to the northwest of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. They will discover that it has erupted many times throughout history and will focus on the eruption that destroyed Pompeii in August 79 CE.

Design Technology

The children will discover how to use a lever as a mechanism in a 3D structure. From their prototype, the children will learn what adjustments can be made to improve the accuracy and range of their catapult. From this, they will create a final model of a Roman Military catapult.

Mathematics

The children will look at the calendar system and learn that this concept was invented by the Romans. They will compare the Roman calendar with our calendar today, identifying similarities and recognising months named after important people or Gods. We will challenge the children to find out what each Roman numeral represents by solving number problems and we will learn how to represent large numbers in Roman Numerals. We will compare this to our place value system today.

Religious Education

The children will learn that the early Romans worshipped more than one God. They will compare Roman beliefs with other world religions. Do any of the other faiths practise polytheism? Do any of these faiths believe that the Gods can intervene in their lives, both to help or punish them? The children will find out about the history of our Faith: The Conversion of Constantine the Great who, in turn, made the entire Roman Empire Christian.

Within our Catholic Social Teaching unit, we will be introduced to the question, 'Who is my Neighbour?' In answering this, we will be considering the scriptures, 'The Good Samaritan' and 'A New Commandment.' During the season of Advent, the children will place the First Coming of Jesus in historical context though the lives of His ancestors (the House of David). They will also explore the nature of the Messiah.



Enrichment

We will be going on a visit to Fort Nelson for a Roman themed activity day. The children will dive into the history of the Romans and the Celts.

The children will experience a 'Roman Day,' where they will come to school dressed as a Roman Soldier. We will make our own Roman helmets and shields, which we will then use to practice different battle formations.

PSHE/RHE

We will explore the many different models of 'ruling' which the Romans tried out over hundreds of years e.g. democracy versus dictatorship, the introduction of 'law', the earliest 'welfare' programmes. We will consider why rules and laws are so important and that they are there to protect people and make sure that they are treated fairly. Within our RHE learning this term, we will also be introduced to the topic of puberty.

Science

This half-term, the children will be learning all about 'Sound'. They will identify how sounds are made, linking this to the recognition of vibrations travelling through a medium to the ear. To build on their understanding of how sound is produced, the children will explore links between pitch, volume and strength in their own investigations. They will be tasked with creating and using sound as a weapon on the 'battlefield'. The investigation will be linked to 'war cries and wailing weapons' where they create frightening sounds to instil fear into their opponents.

Computing

On the topic of Romans, we will be collating all of our findings after taking on the role of a historian to create a plan and create a fact-filled podcast. The children will be recording, editing and combining audio to incorporate within the podcast.

Art and Design

The children will work with clay in order to create their own piece of Roman pottery. They will learn that the Romans applied patterns to 3D objects – they used modelling for their decoration because it was faster and cheaper than painting the clay. The children will then use modelling techniques to finish their Roman pots!

Music

The main focus of this topic is the song 'Just Like A Roman.' The children will learn to keep a simple pulse to a song and they will create and perform simple rhythmic patterns on untuned percussion instruments. The children will be able to notate simple rhythmic ideas using Kodaly notation. The children will learn to sing the song 'Just Like A Roman,' with actions. They will begin to understand how rhythmic and melodic ideas can be combined to create a piece of music suitable for a battle scene. The children will perform tuned and/or untuned percussion instruments in a class composition, and will learn about the composer Hans Zimmer.

Physical Education

The children will learn different disciplines within football each week under the expert coaching of AFCB. They will focus on passing, tackling, shooting, dribbling and game play. Our 'Sports Leaders' from Year 10 will lead gym and dance sessions with our Year 4 children this half-term. The children will have taster sessions of different genres of dance each week, including street, jazz and modern.