

Topic Learning Letter

Year Three Spring Term 2024

Topic	Our topic for this term is <i>Radical Romans</i> . We will be learning about how the Romans invaded and conquered Britain, making it part of the Roman Empire. We will explore the Roman way of life, the army and the Roman legacies which still affect us today. As this is such a popular topic with the children and so much learning to engage with this will be our topic for the whole term.
Launch and Land	To launch our topic, we have our Roman Day led by 'Portals to the Past' where the children will explore the dramatic change in the lifestyle of even the lowliest citizens following the arrival of the Roman legions, take a tour through aspects of Roman life, enjoy a dance for the emperor and experience the excitement of the games arena. Real Roman artefacts as well as playing Roman games will provide the opportunity to get a real hands-on experience of history. We also have some Roman artefacts coming on loan from Saffron Walden Museum. To land our topic, we will be cooking bread and enjoying it with some of the food types that Britons living under Roman rule would have been introduced to – e.g. olive oil, olives, 'wine' (grape juice!).
English	For the first half term we will be reading and writing play scripts. To begin with we will read <i>'The Emperor's Head'</i> written by Julia Donaldson. Following this, we will write some of our own play scripts using all of the knowledge we have learnt. After half term, we will read <i>'Charlotte's Web'</i> written by E. B. White, which is a rescue story. We will also read <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> by Onjali Rauf as part of our guided reading sessions; this book touches on the subject of immigration, which of course links very well to current affairs as well as our history and geography learning around empire building and displaced peoples.
Maths	This half-term we will extend our knowledge of multiplication and division further by learning to multiply a single digit number with 2 and 3 digit numbers and dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers by a single digit number. Continuing to practise and master their timetables, aiming to be able to instantly recall multiplication bonds (without having to work through the whole times table) is vital for this topic in maths and next term's learning about fractions. Following this, we will be learning about measurement: length, mass, measure, money and time. Children will find being able to tell the time using an analogue clock to the minute both past the hour and also calculating the minutes before the next hour will be a real advantage when calculating intervals between two times.
Science	We are looking forward to learning about forces and magnets. We will work together to ask scientific questions which we would like to find the answers to. We will then answer these questions by carrying out scientific enquiries, beginning to consider fair testing. In the second half of the term we look at nutrition in animals including humans.
History/ Geography	In history, we will look at the continuing timeline moving from the Iron Age to the Roman Empire. We will study maps of the Empire, considering how important trade was between countries, linking this to our DT learning in making careful decisions regarding our ingredients and air miles.
Computing	In computing this term, we are learning about programming through the program Scratch. The children will learn about building programs with block code. We will be continuing with lessons about online safety, and network infrastructure.
Design and Technology / Art	Our art unit of work is collage. We will produce our own Roman mosaic tiles so make a little space on a sideboard to display these! To link with our topic, we learn about aspects of the Roman lifestyle, including the food they enjoyed eating, where the food was sourced in the Roman Empire and how it travelled. As part of our DT unit, we will learn about the making of bread, different breads from around the world, sourcing local ingredients and make our own style bread rolls.
Music	We will travel on a musical journey with a cast of crazy characters, sparkling songs, bags of fun and cross-curricular ideas galore! We focus on music in Roman times and Dragon Scales.
PSHE	This term we will continue learning from our Jigsaw scheme of work. The units for the term are <i>Goals and Dreams</i> and <i>Healthy Me</i> . We will learn about how to reach the goals we set ourselves using perseverance, resilience, courage and determination as well as mental and physical health. We will also continue to refer to the strategies for self-regulating emotional ups and downs through our Zones of Regulation learning.
RE	We will be using the Theology lens to look at the enquiry: <i>What is the Trinity?</i> Later, we will be studying an aspect of Islam, and will visit the Cambridge Mosque.
Reminders	Swimming – Year three will swim every Monday morning in the first half term straight after Christmas. P.E. – Our P.E. day is again reverting to Tuesday - please ensure all children's jewellery is removed and that children arrive in school wearing their kit.

	<p>As last term, children need to bring their school library book, school planner and water bottle to school every day because they are needed daily. We have noticed that some children unpack a vast array of stationery every day at their desks, which can cause a major distraction.</p>
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Pencil cases are optional; school does provide all necessary stationery although it is very useful if children have their own glue sticks. Hopefully, Father Christmas also got the memo that pencil cases must fit easily into the pupil's tray and not block the one above. Children really do only need to bring one rubber, one pencil sharpener, a couple of writing pencils, one highlighter pen and a few coloured pencils **if** they wish. Felt pens/glitter pens are not used in Year 3 lessons and should stay at home.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please talk to one of the Year Three Team.