

Year 4 - Areas of Study Spring 1 - 2025

Topic Title: Rome Wasn't Built in a Day

Key Question: What was Roman life like?

English (Reading and Writing)

In guided reading, the children will be exploring non-fiction texts this half term. Within these texts, there will be a few based around Roman life and experiences. This will support their learning, understanding and analysis of what life was really like for the Romans. In guided reading lessons, we will be using VIPERS style of questioning (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summarise).

In our writing lessons during Spring 1, the children will identify the features of, plan and write different styles of writing. These will include writing an explanation text of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. They will write a narrative with a focus on setting description, using the text 'Escape from Pompeii' as a model text. Much of our writing this half term lends itself beautifully to our topic of the Romans, which will give the children the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the Roman world. They will begin to strengthen the foundations of their knowledge and showcase their understanding of what life was like in this historical period. Alongside applying the literary skills, they have been honing and developing as they progress through Year 4.

Maths

Maths will be taught discretely throughout this topic, following the White Rose scheme of work. The children will be exploring the following topics during Spring 1. They will continue to build upon their multiplication and division skills, length and perimeter and fractions.

Science

Not taught this half-term.

History

The children will spend the term finding out about life in the Roman Empire. They will discover what religious beliefs the Romans had and what life was like in the Roman army. They will find out about the life of Julius Caesar and be reminded about the use of primary vs. secondary sources for historical research. They will hear about the Roman invasions of Britain and what happened at each stage of this process. The Emperor Hadrian will be discussed along with why Hadrian's wall was built. After half term, the children will think about what life was like under the Roman Empire and how this led to the rebellion of the Celts led by Boudicca. Following this, the children will find out more about Roman baths and the impact the presence of the Romans had on life in Britain. We will end the unit with a Roman day, which will include Roman Numerals maths challenges and Roman games.

Geography

Within geography lessons this half term, the children will learn about the major mountain ranges in the United Kingdom. This will include where they are geographically located, what their names are, how tall they are and what the conditions in that area are like. To further their learning about the physical geography of the United Kingdom, the children will learn about the main rivers and where they are located.

The children will look particularly at Ben Nevis and Snowdonia during our Geography lessons. We will investigate the surrounding areas using Ordnance Survey maps; looking at the different symbols used and how to use a key to locate different features on a map. Alongside this, the children will explore the height of mountain ranges on a map using contour lines.

Art

This half term, the children will be exploring different tools to create their own 3D mosaic. This fits well with our half termly theme of the Romans, as mosaics were widely used to display aspects of Roman life. The scenes that were depicted often varied depending on the location of the artwork. Mosaics in temples were largely related to mythology, whereas in government buildings you were more likely to see mosaics created around historical ideas or civic life. Within houses and homes, Roman mosaics portrayed a variety of different images that included sports, hunting and daily life. The children will draw together the knowledge that they have gathered about Roman life, to experiment with designs for their own mosaic. We will display these in a class museum once completed so that the children can appreciate and evaluate their own work and the creations of their peers.

Design Technology (DT)

Within D&T, we will continue our Autumn learning of healthy eating, by making a pasta salad. The children will learn to work hygienically, developing a number of skills including cutting, measuring and grating. They will see the change in form of pasta from dried to cooked.

Music

This half term in music, we will be following a Sing up scheme of work called Fanfare.

This listening unit is based around the piece *Fanfare for the common man* by Aaron Copland. It provides the foundation for investigating how unique music is in creating dramatic effect and atmosphere, and is an excellent starting point for exploring the use of pitch, melody, texture, and timbre.

Religious Education (RE)

RE will be taught weekly throughout the year. This term, pupils' learning will be based on Passover and then the Easter story. Children will learn about Kashrut laws, the story of Passover and the Seder plate.

Physical Education (PE)

We will be teaching dance in Real PE. We will develop the fundamental movements of dance and introduce the concept of simple sequences and repeating patterns. We will continue to explore concepts associated with dance as well as developing an understanding of musicality and artistry. We will work individually and collaboratively to begin to link movements into repeatable dance steps and gain confidence to share our ideas and perform in a range of contexts.

In outdoor P.E., the children will play Boccia. They will develop an understanding of the T.A.P.S aiming words. Make suitable choices for how to propel a ball. Show an understanding of the rules for the sport and begin to make tactile decisions regarding when to lay attacking or defending shots.

Computing

In computing this half term, the children will be exploring Google Sites. This software will allow us to teach the children the skills to be able to create their own websites. We will learn about the uses of the internet and how to decipher whether the information on a website is accurate and true. The children will be given allotted time to use the internet to investigate a range of other websites and gain inspiration and ideas for their own. To conclude this unit of learning, the children will be asked to produce their own website using Google Sites. This website will link nicely to our topic of the half term, as they will be required to create a travel website all about Rome. This will provide them with the opportunity to take their learning into their own hands and choose how they wish to display and lay out the information they have discovered. They will learn how to insert images and videos, add text of varying sizes, colours and fonts and how to create links to other websites or sections of their own. At the end of the half term, the children will share their final product with their peers and evaluate their work.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

This half term, children will learn what it means to be digitally literate. PSHE will be taught weekly. They will learn about how to keep themselves safe online, considering how accurate online information is, what their digital footprint is and whether all adverts are trustworthy. They will also learn about their personal data.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

The children will learn about musical instruments and, by the end of the unit, will be able to name ten instruments in French. They will be able to construct simple sentences using the verb 'to play'.

*If you require additional information relating to our school curriculum, please ask at the school office or the class teacher.