

# Year 4 Newsletter

## Spring Term 1 2022-23

### 'Ancient Romans' Themed Half Term

#### Year 4

**Teacher:** Miss A. Hegedüs  
**HLTA:** Mrs N. Frost

Welcome back! I hope you had a fantastic Christmas break and New Year celebration. This half term I hope the children will be excited to get learning more about the Ancient Romans.

*If you have any queries or concerns about your child's progress or well-being, please do not hesitate to make an after-school appointment to speak to me.*



#### Important Days

#### PE on Wednesday and Friday

PE kits with trainers should be brought to school in drawstring bags and left on the children's pegs.

#### Friday

Homework due and reading diaries should be signed by parents. Spelling tests will take place on Fridays.

Children should bring their reading diaries and school books into school every day. Please also ensure that children only bring book bags and draw string bags into school.

**Please label all uniform.**

#### RE

In RE, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the Mass. They will reflect on the importance of Sunday and why Catholics go to Mass. They will learn about the different parts of the Mass like the Liturgy of the Word, the offertory, words of consecration and sign of peace.



#### English

Our English learning will focus on stories about Ancient Romans and Roman myths this half term. We will be exploring the story of a fictional character Camilla through the book of **Empire's End: A Roman Story** by **Leila Rasheed**. We will engage with the text through discussion and drama and the children will have the opportunity to articulate their ideas about the text using increasingly varied vocabulary. Our reading comprehension focus will be on retrieving and inferring information, as well as text structure and the writers' use of language. After becoming familiar with the text, the children will plan, draft, edit and present their own narratives. As part of writing our narratives, we will create effective setting and character descriptions to go along with our plot. We will work on using fronted adverbials and direct speech in our writing. The children will continue to develop their understanding of effective editing and redrafting of their work. We will also learn about the myth of Romulus and Remus as we read **The Orchard Book of Roman Myths** by **Geraldine McCaughrean** and **Emma Chichester Clark**. Spellings this half term will be given out on the first Tuesday of the half term.

#### Mathematics

At the start of this half term, children will develop their multiplication and division understanding. We will practise our multiplication tables up to 12x12. Our learning also includes solving worded problems and working on our mathematical reasoning skills. Later on in the half term, we will explore factor pairs and efficient multiplication methods. We will learn to multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using a formal written layout. Following our multiplication and division work, we will be finding the area of rectilinear shapes and we will start working with fractions. We will count in tenths and hundredths and we will learn to recognise equivalent fractions too.



#### Science

This half term we will be learning about sound. We will carry out a sound survey and identify what sounds we can hear and what causes them. We will investigate how the vibrations need to travel through a medium to get to our ears. Creating our own harmonicas and string telephones will help us investigate pitch and how sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. We will learn about soundproofing rooms and what instruments the Romans used for entertainment.



#### DT

In our DT project, we will become engineers as we start learning about Roman catapults. We will discover what they were, how they used levers, linkage systems and how they were built. We will build our own catapult models from classroom materials and we will test how well they launch various items.



### Computing

This half term, we will be learning about copyright. We will learn about what plagiarism is and how this can happen online. We will learn more about using search engines efficiently and how we can respectfully use online content as responsible digital citizens. If there is something we want to use that we find online, a good way of giving the creator recognition and respect is by writing a citation. We will apply what we learn by researching information about Ancient Romans and presenting this information.



### MFL

This half term, as part of our French learning, we will be extending our vocabulary about how to tell the time. We will explore am and pm, times to the hour and half-past. The children will explore time tables about school subjects and they will create their own schedules. We will also learn more about French culture and primary school life.



### Music

In music, we will use Benjamin Britten's Storm interlude as inspiration. We will listen to and describe his piece of music and create our stormy seascapes as we listen to the orchestra play. We will imitate sounds of a storm on the sea through portraying the natural phenomena with our music. The children will be given the opportunity to try a range of percussion instruments as they create their own compositions.



### PE

In PE, the children will be focusing on developing and sequencing their movements. They will be practising gymnastics and dance. They will be improving their strength and stamina to be able to hold positions and perform dance moves. They will also work on their observation and communication skills.



### PSHE

In PSHE, we will explore the topic of how we can keep safe and manage risks whilst playing safely. This will include learning about friendships in the online environment and how to maintain positive relationships in our everyday lives. At the beginning of the half term, we will focus on online safety and gaming habits, considering age classification systems and why they are in place. Later on, we will be learning about the British Values and what they mean to us.



### Topic - History 'Ancient Romans'



Our topic is linked to History this half term. We will explore the myth of Romulus and Remus and how daily life was in Rome. We will learn about the everyday lives of Ancient Romans and how the Roman Empire expanded and impacted life in Britain. We will learn about invasions and British resistance and how the Romans changed Britain.



In Geography, we will be learning about Italy and Rome. We will be locating Italy among other European countries on a map and evaluating its human and physical features.

### Homework

In response to parent feedback, some homework will be paper based rather than online:

- Athletics / Times Tables Rock Stars / Spelling Shed tasks / Reading Eggs
- Reading the school reading books 5 times per week for 15 minutes, minimum, but longer reading time is preferable to build reading stamina. Use reading journals to record homework and focus on reading comprehension skills.
- Research projects available on the Y4 website.

Our School Homework policy is available on the school website.

### Ways to Help Your Child

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe that strong school-parent links are an essential part of ensuring our pupils achieve their potential. We really appreciate the support you give your children at home in order to help them with their learning.

Please ensure that you **listen to your child reading their school reading book** and write each time you listen in their homework diaries; listening to your child will improve their reading ability and boost their reading motivation and enjoyment. In addition, your child will have an advantage in English if **you read a book to them regularly**.

The children's KIRF target this half term is to **find fractions of objects, shapes, lengths and amounts**. Counting in tenths and hundredths can also help children with converting fractions to decimals. By the end of year 4, the children also need to be able to recall their **times tables and division facts up to 12x12**. These facts are important to support learning in other areas of their maths learning so please ensure to practise these regularly. As always, support given to children at home is invaluable and if you need any support with this please ask.