

Resourceful Romans

YEAR 5
AUTUMN 1
2026/27

PROJECT OVERVIEW

We begin with a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace where the children learn about life in Britain during the Roman period, focusing on Roman innovation and influence in architecture and mosaics and home life. The children look at the growth of the Roman Empire, exploring why they were such successful conquerors. They learn about the Celtic opposition the invading Romans faced in Britain, comparing the Roman army's strengths with the passion of the Celtic warriors, focussing on the Iceni rebellion led by Boudicca. The children write as Celtic spies, informing and advising their Iceni queen about the organisation and battle strategies of the Roman Army in order to avoid further defeat. Returning to more peaceful times in Roman Britain, the children explore Roman engineering and design a Roman villa complete with hypocaust central heating. They describe a villa room for which they design a mosaic. This forms part of their group's villa brochure, which is presented to parents. In computing, children use Sketch Up to create a 3D villa model.

ENGLISH

Children watch the *Home Sweet Home* animation to inspire development of their descriptive writing skills and use personification to create atmosphere. In our Roman project, they use precise Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary to describe the strength of the Roman Army, writing in role as a Celtic spy to inform and advise Boudicca. They write a detailed description of a Roman villa room, using their knowledge of Roman engineering and artistry to persuade a possible buyer of its benefits. Children listen to a range of texts to develop their reading skills and build stamina in independent reading.

MATHS

Starting with place value we will explore numbers to 100,000 before moving on to addition and subtraction with more than 4 digits, using informal and formal written methods. A study of the perimeter of composite rectilinear shapes will lead into solving multi-step problems, some including decimal notation in the context of length. Next, representing multiplication and division facts as grid arrays will link to finding area. We will also explore multiples, factors and prime numbers. Returning to place value we will multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10 and 100, then explore methods for division. We will finish with a study of fractions including equivalence, addition and subtraction.

SCIENCE

Longitudinal study - How does the temperature affect the plants and animals found in our school field? The children will explore this question across the year through practical investigation, supported by classroom-based teaching to learn about the processes involved in plant growth and reproduction. Plant life cycles will be studied in greater depth during the summer term. Our Autumn term science project will explore the properties of materials, investigating reversible and irreversible changes. Children will go on to find out about chemists who have created new materials, and will discuss how chemical changes have an impact on our lives.

RE

Children explore the concept of stewardship considering the ideas of responsibility and privilege. They discuss attitudes towards stewardship of the Earth by looking at the Islamic creation story and a Native American speech. Children create an inspirational poem about looking after the world for future generations and debate the importance of individual responsibility.

GEOGRAPHY

No Geography unit this half term.

HISTORY

Children will learn about the founding of Rome and the story of Romulus and Remus. They will identify the extent of the Roman Empire. They will compare Celtic Britain with Roman Britain, looking at Romans' villas and engineering. Children will identify the strengths of the conquering Roman army and discover the resistance led by Boudicca. They will consider the Roman legacy.

ART

Children will explore Roman mosaics at Fishbourne Roman Palace. They will carry out further research into different types of mosaics, comparing looking at content and structure. They will investigate and recreate Roman geometric patterns before designing a mosaic with a central motif and surrounding geometric repeating pattern border. They will use printing sticks and paint to create their mosaic.

DT

No DT unit this half term

MUSIC

Our learning in this Rock Anthems unit is focused around the song 'Livin' On A Prayer'. The children will explore the song through games and the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch.) As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, the children will listen and appraise other classic rock songs, considering how Rock music developed from the Beatles onwards.

SPANISH

This term, children will be developing their Spanish language skills through fun and engaging activities. They will learn to introduce themselves, ask and answer simple questions, and build their vocabulary. Children will also explore Spanish culture and discover more about our European neighbours.

COMPUTING

Children will explore the school network and develop an understanding of the different areas in which their work can be created, accessed, stored and printed. They will build on previous knowledge when opening, saving and printing a Word file, and go on to format their chosen font, clip art or photos and word art to improve the quality of their finished work.

PE

GAMES Football: Children learn a variety of skills, practising each through a series of activities and mini-games. They explore a range of attacking and defending strategies, learning how to use space and positioning.

PE Gymnastics Children learn individual and partner balances. In groups, they design and perform sequences using apparatus. They use peer evaluation to refine and modify their sequences for a final performance.

PSHE

This half term we will be exploring how we manage friendships and peer influences.

We start by looking at the quality of friendship, asking "How good a friend are you?", and discuss being assertive.

As a final activity children will design a recipe for a relationship cake.