



**Viaduct Federation of Schools**

## **Year 4 Autumn Curriculum Newsletter**

Dear Parent / Carer,

The new academic year has started off really well and we have an exciting Autumn Term planned. Our topic for this half term will be 'The Romans'. We hope your child enjoyed Roman Day and is looking forward to the rest of the term. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher at an upcoming Parents Evening, however if any issues arise in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the school and arrange an appointment. We hope that the children enjoy a wonderful start to Year 4!

### **Subject Overviews**

#### **English**

We will begin the year by recreating a first person narrative linked to the story of 'The Captive Celt' by Terry Deary. Following this, we will create a persuasive leaflet aimed at persuading people to join the Roman Army. Later on in the term, we will write an explanation text about the creation of mosaics, which will link to our work in Art. Throughout this term, we will be developing our grammar and spelling skills with focussed lessons, as well as reading Roman themed texts to develop fluency along with analysing characters, recalling key events and refining our inference skills.

#### **Maths**

In Maths, the children will begin by looking at the place value of numbers. We will spend a period of time looking at how numbers up to 10,000 are represented, partitioned and shown on a number line. After this, we will learn to find 1, 10, 100 or 1000 more or less than a given number. Furthermore, we will look at ordering and comparing numbers and to finish this topic we will look at Roman Numerals and rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. For the second part of this term, we will be focussing on addition and subtraction. We will look at the formal written methods for both of these operations and how we can solve problems using them. The children will also continue to practise their written methods with a dedicated calculation lesson each week. Throughout this term, the children will be given regular opportunities to practise and embed their times tables facts during our afternoon sessions and we encourage the children to practise regularly at home to help earn their Times Tables certificates.

#### **Science**

We will begin by learning about the topic 'Animals Including Humans.' We will be learning about the functions of the digestive system through the use of diagrams and a practical experiment. The children will identify the types of teeth in humans along with their functions. We will carry out scientific investigations to support our scientific understanding as well as focussing on fair testing and recording observations. Finally, we will be building upon our knowledge of grouping animals, and we will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

## **Computing**

To begin the year, we will revisit our learning of E-Safety and keeping ourselves safe online during our topic of 'Don't Fall for Fake'. The children will be focussing on phishing, how to identify suspicious activity online and how to identify the credibility of sources.

## **History**

In History, we will be learning about Roman Britain. We will look at the invasion of Britain, Boudicca's rebellion as well as Hadrian's Wall. We will develop our analytical skills by observing the changes the Romans brought to Britain as well as the lasting impact that we can still see today. The children have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in an enrichment day where we welcomed a Roman Visitor.

## **PSHE**

We start the year focussing on relationships and working effectively with each other. We will also explore how friendships make us feel, the ups and downs that friendships can have, how to solve problems in friendships and types of bullying.

## **Art**

In Art, we will be using our knowledge linked to our work on 'The Romans' to learn about the history and creation of mosaics. We will use this as an inspiration to develop our own ideas of a repeating pattern in the style of a Roman mosaic.

## **French**

French will be taught throughout the year by Mrs Coffey. The children will begin the year by learning how to describe their family dynamics including siblings and extended family. The children will finish the term by reading a French paragraph and comprehending what is being said before writing their own French paragraph about their family.

## **Music**

Music will be taught throughout the year by Mrs Yeo. The children will be learning to play a variety of pitched instruments. They will begin by learning how to play different notes of the pentatonic scale before learning to read the notations and play phases of music. The aim of this term is for the children to compose their own pentatonic phrase.

## **Games / P.E**

On a Thursday morning, the children will have a 1-hour indoor PE lesson. The focus of this lesson will be badminton. On Monday afternoons, the children will have 2 Games sessions one focussing on football and the other focussing on a combination of Cross Country, OAA (outdoor adventure activities) and HRF (health related fitness).

**PE Kit Reminder:** Children are to come in wearing their PE kit on the days when they have PE (Monday and Thursdays). Please ensure that all kit is named.

**Year group info-pictures below from left to right:**

- **Head of Year 4** – Miss A Burns
- **Teachers:** Miss B Evans, Mrs S Sparshott- Dzialoszynski (Mrs D), Mrs A Edwards
- **Teaching Assistants:** Mrs T Mawson, Mrs M Haith



**Homework**

**Spellings** - Children will receive new spellings on a Wednesday which will be stuck in their log books. We ask that they access Spelling Shed 2 times a week minimum and complete their home practise in their log book.

**Reading** - We ask that children are listened to while they read for about 10 minutes a day. They have an appropriate reading book given to them by the school but they could also choose to read a book from home or the library. Please support them by recording their reading in their organisers. Children who read at least 5 times per week are awarded a raffle ticket.

**Maths** - The children will be focusing on their times tables using TTRockstars. We ask that they access this regularly (equivalent of 10 minutes per day).

**Homework** – Topic homework will be sent out throughout the term (this is longer, project-based activities). Children are encouraged to complete their homework as it reinforces the learning which takes place in school and is another opportunity to practise. Those who complete their homework regularly and to a good standard can earn rewards.

**Snack** -Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at breaktime along with a refillable water bottle.

- [www.ttrackstars.com](http://www.ttrackstars.com)—for times tables
- [www.edshed.com](http://www.edshed.com)—for spelling practise through games

Your child has logins for both of these websites.

Logins are stuck into their personal log books.

**Dates to remember**

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Roman Day
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 4:00 – Residential Information Evening
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Bushfield Open Morning for Prospective Parents
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – MacMillian Coffee Morning
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Parents Evening
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Halloween Disco
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Maths and Science Day

***Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> October***

**Did you know we now have a Facebook page?**

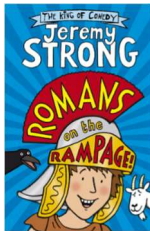
We have created a Facebook page which will show any news and events across the Viaduct Federation of schools, it is titled 'The Bushfield and Wyvern Viaduct Federation of Schools'. Like us and keep up to date with any fun school events and news!



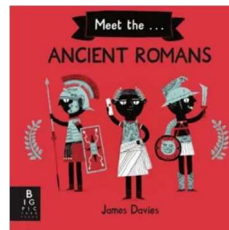
**BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE**



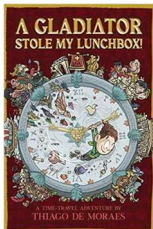
**Suggested Books – a range of fiction and non-fiction linked to the topics and themes of the half term should your child wish to read further or need inspiration on what to read next!**



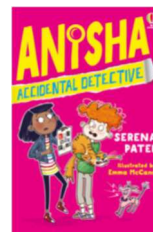
**Jeremy Strong**  
A super-fun novel that tells of the crazy adventures of Perilus, a Roman boy who dreams of riding chariots in the Circus Maximus. Romans on the Rampage is a laugh-out-loud story.



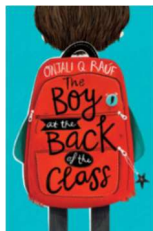
A simple introduction to the world of the Romans, this is a humorous and stylish book without compromising on factual content. A popular choice with reluctant or younger readers.



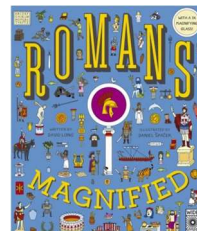
A toga-tickling, gladiatorial gallop through Ancient Rome! A Gladiator Stole My Lunchbox is a time-travel adventure with a difference. Interesting facts are woven into a fun, action-packed time travel story set in Ancient Rome.



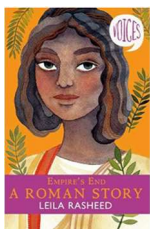
Family and friendships is the focus of PSHE this half term, both of which are celebrated in this humorous mystery story.



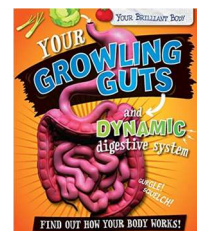
Linking with the theme of a new school start, in this story, we learn about Ahmet's background and the ups and downs of integrating into a new school. Kindness and friendship triumph, and the story develops empathy and encourages human connection. One of many hugely successful books by this multi-award winning, best-selling author.



Learn what life was like for the Romans – from the Senate and the Colosseum to the market, the public baths and beyond! Using the free magnifying glass, seek out incredible facts about ancient Rome in this search-and-find adventure, packed with over 200 things to spot. The artwork bursts with hidden detail and bustles with action, and the detailed factual text will tell you everything you need to know about the different areas of Roman life.



This is a gripping adventure that offers a new perspective and helps to develop an understanding of the Roman world as one that was full of many different cultures, religions and ethnicities.



Packed with amazing facts and eye-grabbing images, Your Growling Guts and Dynamic Digestive System contains detailed diagrams and amazing images to illustrate amazing facts about the human body.



A rip-roaring Roman adventure, readers will go on a time-travel adventure as Livi and her family are catapulted back to Ancient Rome.