



Viaduct Federation of Schools

Year 4 Autumn Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to welcome your child to Year 4 and look forward to an exciting year of learning together! We have loved getting to know the children already, and they are settling into their new classes brilliantly. We have an exciting Autumn Term ahead, with our topic focusing on '**The Romans**'. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher at the September parent consultation meetings; however, if any issues arise in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school and arrange an appointment.

Subject Overviews

English

We will begin the year by focusing on the foundations of writing, including grammar and punctuation, to ensure all children have the building blocks needed to become successful writers. We will focus on developing sentence structure and using punctuation accurately. Following this, the children will recreate a first-person narrative linked to *The Captive Celt* by Terry Deary. They will then create a persuasive leaflet encouraging people to join the Roman Army.

Maths

In Maths, we will begin the year by exploring place value, working with numbers up to 10,000 and learning to represent, compare, order and round them. We will also investigate Roman numerals and find 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more or less than a given number.

Later in the term, we will focus on addition and subtraction, developing confidence with formal written methods and applying these skills to solve problems. The children will also continue to build fluency in their times tables through regular practice in school and at home, working towards earning their Times Tables certificates.

Science

In Science, we will study 'Animals Including Humans', exploring the digestive system, the different types of teeth and their functions. Through practical investigations, the children will develop their scientific enquiry skills and learn about food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Computing

In Computing, we will start the year with our 'Don't Fall for Fake' unit, learning how to stay safe online. The children will explore phishing, identify suspicious online activity and learn how to judge whether information and sources can be trusted.

History

In History, we will explore Roman Britain, learning about the Roman invasion, Boudicca's rebellion and the significance of Hadrian's Wall. The children will investigate the changes the Romans brought to Britain and consider the lasting impact of Roman rule that can still be seen today. To enrich their learning, the children have already enjoyed a Roman Visitor experience day, which brought this fascinating period of history to life.

PSHE

In PSHE, we will explore family relationships and friendships, learning how to build positive relationships, show respect for others and understand the importance of kindness, empathy and communication.

Art

In Art, we will use our learning about 'The Romans' to explore the history and design of Roman mosaics. Inspired by these ancient artworks, the children will develop their own ideas and create repeating patterns in the style of a Roman mosaic, experimenting with colour, shape and composition.

French

French will be taught throughout the year by Mrs Coffey. This term, the children will learn how to describe their families, including siblings and extended family members. As their confidence grows, they will develop their reading and comprehension skills by exploring simple French texts before writing their own paragraph about their family in French.

Music

Music will be taught throughout the year by Mrs Yeo. This term, the children will learn to play a range of pitched instruments, exploring the notes of the pentatonic scale and developing their understanding of musical notation. They will build their performance skills by reading and playing simple musical phrases, before composing their own pentatonic melody by the end of the term.

Games / P.E

In PE, the children will have an indoor lesson on Tuesday mornings, where the focus this term will be on developing their badminton skills. On Monday afternoons, they will take part in two Games sessions: one focusing on football, and the other on a range of activities including Cross Country, Outdoor Adventure Activities and Health-Related Fitness, helping to develop teamwork, resilience and physical fitness.

PE Kit Reminder: Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days (Mondays and Tuesdays). Please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly named.

Homework

Spellings

Children will receive a new spelling list each Tuesday, which will be stuck into their spelling books. We encourage them to practise little and often throughout the week, both in their spelling books and on Spelling Shed (EdShed), where they can access games and activities to support their learning. Regular practice helps children to remember spelling patterns and rules and apply them confidently in their writing. We ask that children use Spelling Shed at least twice a week and complete their spelling practice at home. They can use the website www.edshed.com.

Reading

We encourage children to read for at least 10 minutes each day. Every child in Year 4 will receive a reading book appropriate to their reading level within the first two weeks of term. Regular reading at home has a significant impact on children's progress, and we would be grateful if you could record each reading session on the 'Track My Read' website. Logins for Track My Read will be sent home within the first two weeks of term. Children can also access a wide range of online books through 'Oxford Owl' to support and extend their reading at home. They can use the website www.trackmyread.org.

Maths

As preparation for the national Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in Year 4, the children will practise their times tables regularly in school and take part in frequent recall activities to build fluency and confidence. We ask that children also practise at home for around 10 minutes each day using TT Rock Stars, where they can improve their speed and accuracy, earn certificates and celebrate their progress. Regular practice will help children to develop rapid recall of their multiplication facts and support their learning across the mathematics curriculum. They can use the website www.ttrockstars.com.

Topic

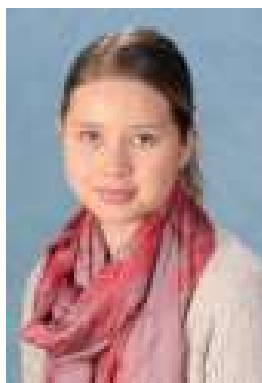
Each term, children will be set a project-based homework task linked to our topic. This provides an opportunity to further explore and deepen their learning, while reinforcing the knowledge and skills developed in school. We encourage all children to complete their homework and take pride in their work, as completed projects will be shared and celebrated across the year group. Children who complete their homework regularly and to a high standard will have the opportunity to earn rewards.

Drinks & Snacks

Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at break time and provide a named water bottle.

Year group information (left to right):

- **Class Teachers:** Miss Scott (Head of Year), Miss Evans and Mrs Reilly
- **Set Teachers:** Miss Burns
- **Teaching Assistants:** Mrs Mawson and Mrs Addis



Useful websites

- www.oxfordowl.co.uk
- www.ttrockstars.com —for times tables
- www.edshed.com —for spelling practice through games
- www.trackmyread.org
- www.linguafun.eu —for French

Logins for TT Rockstars, EdShed & Track My Read are in their spelling books.

To do:

- Practise times tables for 10 minutes each day.
- Spellings - practise spellings regularly throughout the week.
- Reading – read for 10 minutes each day.
- PE Kit – children are to come in their PE kit on the days they have PE (Mondays and Tuesdays) and should have suitable kit for the time of year.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday 17th September 3:20pm** – Residential Trip Information Evening
- **Tuesday 29th September and Wednesday 30th September** – Parents Evening
- **Thursday 22nd October** – Disco
- **Friday 23rd October** – Maths and Science Day
- **Friday 23rd October** – Break up for half term holiday
- **Monday 2nd November** – Return to school
- **Friday 18th December** – End of Autumn Term

Did you know we now have a Facebook page?

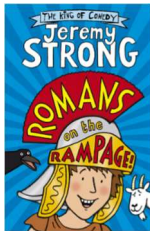
We have created a Facebook page which will show any news and events across the Viaduct Federation of schools, it is titled 'The Bushfield and Wyvern Viaduct Federation of Schools'. Like us and keep up to date with any fun school events and news!



Be the best you can be.

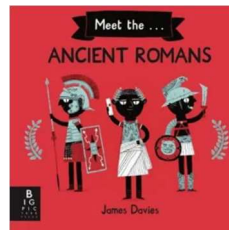


Suggested Books – a range of fiction and non-fiction linked to the topics and themes of the half term should your child wish to read further or need inspiration on what to read next!



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.

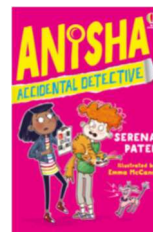


A simple introduction to the world of the Romans, this is a humorous and stylish book without compromising on factual content. A popular choice with reluctant or younger readers.

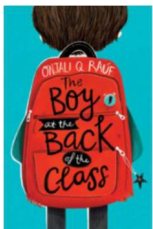


A toga-tickling, gladiatorial gallop through Ancient Rome! A Gladiator Stole My Lunchbox is a time-travel adventure with a difference.

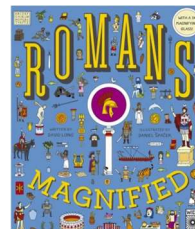
Interesting facts are woven into a fun, action-packed time travel story set in Ancient Rome.



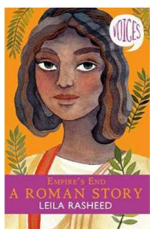
Family and friendships is the focus of PSHE this half term, both of which are celebrated in this humorous mystery story.



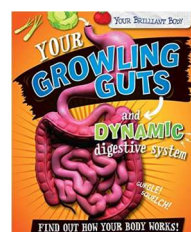
Linking with the theme of a new school start, in this story, we learn about Ahmet's background and the ups and downs of integrating into a new school. Kindness and friendship triumph, and the story develops empathy and encourages human connection. One of many hugely successful books by this multi-award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



Track My Read – Helping children to love reading!

Reading for pleasure – whether reading on their own or sharing a story – is one of the best ways a child can spend their time.

Research shows that:

- Reading each day can help children improve in all their school subjects
- Reading for just 6 minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%
- Children who read for pleasure are more likely to do well at GCSEs

Choosing to read provides all sorts of benefits – it's comforting, relaxing, reduces anxiety, builds empathy and understanding and aids learning... but above all it's fun!

Track My Read is a new tool from national charity, Read for Good, designed to encourage pupils to read regularly and to help schools understand more about what and how pupils want to read.

We've set our pupils a reading challenge as a group – to read a certain number of minutes – and we'd like your child to participate. Their teacher will see your child's responses, but no-one else will.

Your child will be given a unique URL link with a few short questions to complete each time they've spent some time reading:

- Go to the unique URL link provided by the school (on any device with internet access)
- Bookmark or save the link so that they can easily use the link again and again
- They must login with their username and passcode to get to their Dashboard
- To log their Reading Minutes, press the orange **Log a new read** and enter the information.
- Then just press **Submit**.
- Now they will reach their own '**Celebration Page**', showing their progress and with achievement badges and time rewards.