

Oak Curricular Letter

Autumn 1 2026 - Why was Britain so important to the Romans?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everybody! It is fantastic to have all the children back and there is a superb atmosphere around school. The children have adapted and coped extremely well with all of the building work taking place. I do hope you and your family managed to have a brilliant break over the summer and that you managed to recharge your batteries.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this first half term. All the children will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our first topic is called 'Why was Britain so important to the Romans?' and many of our lessons will relate to this.

As with the start of all our topics, we discuss it with the children to find out what they already know and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to our topic, then please let us know.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily, as long as Covid restrictions allow. We aim to read with children several times a week individually (this will be with a member of staff) and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

We will continue to provide children with a piece of fruit, free of charge, each day. Toast is still available daily at 20p. If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice and school policy is water in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,

Mrs Antonella Greenhalgh

Head of School

Days to Remember

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
PE	PE		Times Table Test	Year 4-6 Ukulele
After School Club – Chorley SSP	After School Club – Board Games	After School Club – Music and Movement	After School Club – Performing Arts	After School Club – Book/Film Club

TOPIC

Our topic driver this half term is, 'Why was Britain so important to the Romans?' driven by our History lessons, focusing on what was the Roman Empire and how it impacted Britain.

In Science, we will be answering the question 'Can a chair be made from chocolate?' This unit focuses on states of matter; comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, measuring the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C) and identifying the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

In Art the children will be making their own Roman shield using different joining techniques.

Please take some time to talk to your children about the topics, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their times tables on Timestable Rockstars and the weekly times table for the test every Friday.

Year 3: Unit 1 Place value, addition and subtraction, Unit 2 Length and perimeter, Unit 3 Statistics, Unit 4 Addition and subtraction

Year 4: Unit 1 Place value, addition and subtraction, Unit 2 Length and perimeter, Unit 3 Statistics, Unit 4 Addition and subtraction

Year 5: Unit 1 Place Value, Unit 2 Addition and Subtraction, Unit 3 Statistics, Unit 4 Geometry (Angles), Unit 5 Geometry and Measures

Year 6: Unit 1 Number and Place Value and Decimals, Unit 2 Addition and Subtraction, Unit 3 Multiplication, Unit 4 Division

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin with a unit based upon the legend 'Romulus and Remus' – ***Can I write my own legend to explain to the Parish Councillor how Wrightington got its name?*** The children will become familiar with the Roman legend and discover how the city of Rome was given its name. The children will then extract the basic plot before innovating upon the legend. For their independent write they will adapt the story to be based in Wrightington and will write about how Wrightington was given its name. Grammar will be focused on recapping the different word classes, identifying subordinate conjunctions and subordinate clause in sentences, with the correct use of commas.

We will then complete a play script unit – ***Can I perform Dom Spiro for the Acorn Class?*** The children will be reading the story of Dom Spiro, they will then write this as a play script and perform this to Acorn Class. After this, they will independently write a script for a chapter from Romans on the Rampage by Jeremy Strong (our class reader for this half term). Grammar will be focused on being able to select, generate and effectively use adverbs, as well as writing dialogue using colons.

We will complete the half term with cross curricular non-fiction unit – ***Can I become a Roman expert and share my knowledge with my family?*** This will be closely linked to our work in History; the children will write a non-chronological report based upon what they have learnt about the Romans.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will upload the weekly spelling patterns on Seesaw, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

Reading

The **Year 5/6** children in Oak Class will take part in Guided Reading each week. The focus book for Group this half term is ***'The Queen of Darkness' by Tony Bradman***. **Year 4** will read ***'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit***. During this time, they will complete a range of reading activities responding to reading and reading for enjoyment. In Guided Reading, children have the same text as their group which they read independently and to the adult. We then discuss the text and work on a reading objective – VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summary).

As well as Guided Reading sessions, the children have opportunity to read their home reader to an adult. Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands.

As a Junior, your child has the responsibility to change their own book when finished or when they are ready for a change. Please encourage your children to write the books they have read into their reading record, so that they can be proud of their reading achievements and even achieve one of the reading challenge certificates!

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning – predicting what will happen in the story and why and also thinking about the character's feelings. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce. The hand in date for the activities this half term will be:

Monday, 19th October

Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes'! There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home.

Oak Autumn 1

What did the Romans do for us? – History Driver

English	Maths White Rose Maths				Science	History
<u>Can I write a legend to explain to the Parish Councillor how Wroughtington got its name?</u> Ancient Roman Myths – Romulus and Remus <u>Can I perform Dom Spiro for the Acorn Class?</u> Play scripts <u>Non Chronological Report</u> <u>Can I become a Roman expert and share my knowledge with my family?</u> Non chronological reports	Year 3 Unit 1 Place value, addition and subtraction Unit 2 Length and perimeter Unit 3 Statistics Unit 4 Addition and subtraction	Year 4 Unit 1 Place value, addition and subtraction Unit 2 Length and perimeter Unit 3 Statistics Unit 4 Addition and subtraction	Year 5 Unit 1 Place Value Unit 2 Addition and Subtraction Unit 3 Statistics Unit 4 Geometry (Angles) Unit 5 Geometry and Measures	Year 6 Unit 1 Number and Place Value and Decimals Unit 2 Addition and Subtraction Unit 3 Multiplication Unit 4 Division	<u>Can a chair be made of chocolate?</u> Topic: Everyday materials What are states of matter? What do I already know? Can a state of matter change? Can we make furniture out of chocolate? Can water change state? Can I create liquid from a gas? What is the water cycle?	<u>How did Rome get its name?</u> Topic: Romans Can I explain the spread of the Roman Empire? Why was the Roman army so successful? What type of homes did the Romans live in? Why did Romans build new roads in Britain? How did the Romans bring fresh water into towns and cities? Can I explain what Roman baths were? What were the legacies left by the Romans?
Art/DT	RE Lancs Agreed Syllabus		Music Lancashire Music Service		French Language Nut	Computing
<u>Can I make a Mossy tribe Roman pouch?</u> Topic: Textiles	<u>How do Christians mark the ‘turning points’ on the journey of life?</u> Topic: Christianity (Church)		Ukulele Curriculum Content – Charanga		<u>Ou est-ce que j’habite ?</u> Unit 1: Where I Live	<u>How can I keep myself safe online?</u> Topic: Online Safety using Cyberwise (Coram Life Education)
			PE (Chorley SSP)		PSHE Corman Life Education	
			<u>Who is the most important person in a team?</u> Topic: Invasion Games - Netball		<u>Why are friends special?</u> Topic: Me and my relationships	

