

## Gladiators, Guts and Glory

### Year 3 and 4 Overview Letter for Terms 1 and 2

Dear Parents,

The new 'big' topic for Terms 1 and 2 will focus on The Romans. Year 3 and 4 will embark on an exciting journey through the Roman world. They will learn about the impact of the Roman culture on Britain through a wide range of activities. The children will have ample chance to re-live history through role play, drama and dressing up; particularly during our Roman Feast Day - togas may be required! With a touch of Latin, some maths with Roman numerals, Roman artefacts and Gladiator dance, topic research opportunities, plus pottery and mosaic making, not forgetting a wide range of gripping stories from the Romans and other cultures, the children have a great topic ahead! The curriculum maps, as well as the age related expectations for core subjects, are all on our website.

#### Big questions

Over the holidays it might be nice if the children consider what they'd like to find out about Roman Britain and perhaps begin some investigations themselves. For example, they might like to think about:

1. *What did the Romans do for entertainment?*
2. *Why did the Romans build straight roads?*
3. *Why was the Roman army so successful?*
4. *Who ruled the Romans and how did they do it?*
5. *What was life like in an ordinary Roman town? (Eg. Mosaics, toilets, fashion)*
6. *What evidence of Roman life is there today?*
7. *What system did the Romans use to communicate?*
8. *Why did the Romans build an empire?*
9. *Who did the Romans worship?*
10. *What was it like to be a child in Roman times?*

The children's questions will form the centre of our learning. A project based on a question like one of these will be set as homework in September (see 'homework' below) - so there is no need to get too in depth at this stage!

#### Events:-

**Launch Week** - During the second week back, we are very excited to announce that the children will have a visiting **Roman Gladiator** who will introduce children to life in Roman Britain! We will be asking for a voluntary contribution to help pay for this; details to follow.

**Roman Final Feast** - This will be in school and the children will have the chance to dress up and taste 'Roman' food. The date is to be arranged but it will be around the end of November.



## English

Both year groups will be exploring Roman myths and the conventions of the stories. They will then write their own stories thinking about developing scene, character, setting and sequencing events. They will begin to explore how story can influence culture and link their ideas about story with Roman history. The children will also look at fiction with a Roman theme and develop their sentence and paragraphing skills through their own creative writing. Year 4 will consider the impact of Roman inventions in their topic work, and make links in English with explaining how an invention works. Both year 3 and 4 will also explore different forms of poetry, and will have the chance to perform some as part of a group.

## Maths

We will be focusing on Age Related Expectations to develop:

**Year 3** - Using rounding up when estimating, adding and subtracting using mental and written methods. Understanding that addition is the inverse of subtraction and that division is the inverse of multiplication, multiplying by 10 and 100, to learn written methods for all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), To name 2 and 3D shapes and their properties, use fractions in relationship to measuring eg  $\frac{1}{2}$  litre,  $\frac{1}{3}$  metre etc, to know the relationship between different units of measure in time, capacity, length and mass.

**Year 4** - Developing understanding of decimal notation for tenths and hundredths in the context of money and length, continue to add or subtract mentally pairs of two-digit whole numbers, rehearse knowledge of multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 times-tables and beginning to learn the 8 times-table, extending their knowledge of properties of 2-D shapes, collecting data, measuring where necessary, interpreting their diagrams and graphs, choose and use appropriate units to measure length record lengths, using decimal notation, solve one- and two-step word problems, including those involving money and measures.

## Homework Expectations

Year 3 and 4 will be expected to complete a times tables homework and spelling homework each week, in addition to daily reading. Homework will be set on Thursdays and collected in by the following Tuesday. We will send out log-ins for Mathletics and Purple Mash in September so that children can extend their learning, as suits, using these great resources too. Log-ins are usually stuck in Reading Record Books at the start of term. The Espresso log-in is:

**Username:** student31384

**Password:** dragon

Feel free to have an explore! A more open ended termly homework will also be set in order to extend the knowledge of pupils and encourage more independent and creative ways of working. A small prize will be awarded for taking part, showing effort and new learning. Children will be asked to talk about their learning in an informal class presentation.

We hope that both you and the children enjoy the new topic and that you can share with them some of their learning experiences. If you have a question or would like to speak in person with your class teacher, please direct all communication through the school office: Tel 535033 or [admin@lethbridgeprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@lethbridgeprimary.co.uk)

Many thanks

Year 3&4 teachers

Ms Short, Mr. Ballard, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Moran, Miss Rajska