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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
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Autumn 2019



Dear parents and children,

I hope you all had a lovely break and are looking forward to all the exciting things we have planned for Year Four! As you may have guessed from the outfit, our first topic is Invaders and Settlers (Romans and Celts) which will continue for the whole term. During this topic the children will be given the opportunity to become mini historians and uncover what the Romans did for Britain through a variety of activities.

History

We will explore the history of Rome and the Roman Empire (how Rome was founded and why the Empire developed) and why Britain was a target for Roman invasion. We will compare cultures (Celtic and Roman), looking at people, houses, clothing, food, money, education, gods, sports and soldiers/warriors. There will also be a big focus on the lasting impact of the Romans on Britain's modern society - towns, roads and aqueducts etc.

Geography

We will be covering Europe as part of our Roman topic, particularly the expansion of the Roman empire and the countries they conquered.

Computing

We will be collecting, analysing and presenting data (IT), designing, writing and debugging programs (Computer Science) and continuing to learn about e-safety (Digital Literacy).

Art

We will be recreating Roman artefacts and designing and making our own mosaics.

English

Many of our English lessons will be linked to our topic and will use a wide range of texts. Our main source text this term is *Romans on the Rampage* by Jeremy Strong. We will write in a range of fiction and non-fiction genres which will include monologues, diaries, stories and reports.

Maths

In Maths lessons, we will be consolidating our maths from Year 3 as well as developing understanding of place value (using up to 4 digit numbers) and problems solving. We will also look at Roman Numerals as part of our topic.

It is really important that everyone continues to practise their tables (Times tables Rockstars), number bonds, fractions and conversions etc. in a variety of ways, e.g. website activities, singing





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and chanting. I would particularly recommend the BBC's Super Movers for times tables; videos which the children will be familiar with and are freely available on the web.

Science (Animals including Humans)

This half term we will focus on the body - we will learn the parts of the digestive system, how our bodies digest food and the importance of looking after our teeth. We will conduct lots of practical science activities as well as planning and completing our own science investigations, ensuring we use fair testing.

PSHCE

We will be following our school SEAL programme and the theme for this half term is 'New Beginnings' - we will look at facing changes and new starts positively. There will also be an emphasis across all subjects on Team Building and the importance of working as a group.

RE

Our focus for this half term will be studying 'What do Christians believe about Jesus?' - looking at Christianity, their beliefs and how they express them.

MFL

This year we will be learning Spanish across Key Stage Two, building on their acquired knowledge from last year.

PE

Year 4 PE is timetabled for Thursdays and is based on the games element of PE. We will also continue swimming on a Monday afternoon until Christmas.

Please ensure your child has an appropriate PE kit - comprising of a tee shirt, shorts (for indoors), tracksuit if possible (for outdoors) and a pair of trainers. Swimming kit, as last year, must include an appropriate swimming costume and a swimming cap, and may include goggles.

In addition to all the wonderful things we have planned for this term, Year 4 are also participating in guitar lessons on a Friday afternoon.

Mrs Wall and Mrs McAuley will be our two invaluable teaching assistants this year.

I'm really looking forward to working with your children and getting to know them better. If there is anything you'd like to discuss, curriculum or otherwise, please don't hesitate to ask.

Warm Regards,
Mr Haswell.

