



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Welcome to Class Cuckoo. I have been so impressed at how well the children have settled back into school life, but most of all with the enthusiastic attitudes that the children have brought into class with them! I hope they will continue to be inspired and excited by their learning throughout the year.



Topic

Our first topic to begin the year will be the Romans, where we will be studying aspects of Roman life in Britain from invasions and battles to beliefs and worship. The children will take on the role of archaeologists and learn about the events that led to up to Boudica's revolt. They will discover the impact this had on people's lives as places such as Colchester changed from an Iron Age settlement to a prosperous Roman town.

Reading underpins all learning so I will be encouraging the children to read regularly and ask you to support their learning by hearing them read, discuss their books and find out about the authors who wrote them. We encourage the children to make an entry in their reading journals after each read, as they make their way through our Reading Challenges. Although many will now be independent readers, children in years 4 and 5 will also benefit from having reading modelled to them. Reading bedtime stories aloud together creates not only good night-time routines, but also an enjoyment in stories and reading for pleasure.

English

In English we will begin by reading and evaluating Roman myths and legends and the children will have the opportunity to write their own. We will be writing newspaper reports linked to Boudicca's rebellion, improving our speaking and listening skills through a class debate for and against fighting the Romans from the point of view of the Iceni people, and developing settings and characterisation using vocabulary to create emphasis, atmosphere, suspense in narrative story writing based around the events of Pompeii.

Spelling tests will be weekly and I would ask you to encourage your child to explore the spelling patterns, rules and exceptions beyond the words set, as well as using dictionaries to look up meanings of new vocabulary.



Maths

In Mathematics for the first part of the new term our emphasis will be on number, place value, rounding, approximation and estimation. Linking neatly with our topic the class will also look at Roman numerals. The weekly four calculations practice will continue to keep their skills sharp. Other areas to be covered include multiplication, addition and subtraction, the measurement of length, area and perimeter. As a school we have continued our subscription to Times Tables Rockstars and Mathletics which children can use at home as well as at school. Please do encourage your child to learn and practise their times table and division facts for rapid recall.

Science

In Science we will be investigating the properties and changes of materials, including thermal insulators. The emphasis will be on investigations where the children will be expected to think scientifically and devise ways to prove or disprove an idea and record their questions, observations and conclusions in a scientific way.

Art & Design Technology

Following on our topic of the Romans, for our art and design sessions the class will be further developing their techniques with a variety of materials including working with clay to recreate some Roman artefacts, mosaic designs, and of course, no topic on Romans would be complete without creating Roman shields and armour!

PE

Our PE sessions will be on a Thursday and Friday. For this term all sessions will be outdoors, so please do ensure your child has a tracksuit in their PE bag as the weather gets cooler. We will begin with rugby and track and field athletics, introducing the skills of team games working on communication, collaboration and competition. We aim to improve our levels of fitness and to achieve our individual personal best.

Music & French

We are fortunate to have specialist teachers Mrs Long and Madame Dekhar to teach music and French respectively to the class each Wednesday.

Computing

Computing sessions begin with online safety. Through following an animated story, *play-like-share*, we explore how to spot manipulative behaviour online and how to stay safe from other risks we may encounter and to develop the confidence to respond safely. There are many resources available free to parents which can aid discussions at home from the thinkuknow.co.uk website.

PSHE

Our theme for Autumn is 'Relationships'. Through discussions and activities, we will explore building and maintaining friendships, responding to hurtful behaviour and managing risks online.



Let's Present

Each Wednesday the children will have the opportunity to present to the class. Linking in with our PSHE curriculum, the theme for this term is 'people who inspire me'. Presentations should last around 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A session from the class. If children wish to use a PowerPoint file, please send them via the class email below.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, no matter how small you think they may be, please do get in touch via the class email ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

Thank you in advance for your continued support, and I look forward to working with you and your child in what we hope will be a successful year in school.

Kind Regards

C Evans

Mrs Evans
Class Cuckoo Teacher

