



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

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## Class Cuckoo Topic Letter Autumn 2023

### The Romans

Welcome to Class Cuckoo! I have been very impressed at how well the children have settled back into school life, but mostly at the positive and enthusiastic attitudes that they have towards their learning. This letter outlines details of our topic and curriculum for this term as well as some ideas as to how you can help to support your child at home.

#### 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 new inventions in travel and homes. The children will take on the role of archaeologists and learn about the events that led up to Boudicca's revolt and discover the impact this had on people's lives as towns such as Colchester changed from an Iron Age settlement to a prosperous Roman town.

#### Reading

Reading underpins all learning so I will be encouraging the children to read regularly and ask you to support their learning by both reading to and listening to your child read, discuss their books and find out about the authors who wrote them. We encourage the children to make entries in their reading journals at home and select books from a wide range of genres. I am sure many of the children may now enjoy reading independently for a sustained time, however children even in Years 4 and 5 still benefit from having reading modelled to them; reading bedtime stories aloud together creates not only good night-time routines, but also great enjoyment in sharing 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 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 investigate 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 both learn and practise their times table and division facts for rapid recall.

### **Science**

In Science we will be investigating the properties and changes in materials. 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 working with clay to recreate some Roman artefacts, drawing and designing mosaics, and of course no topic on the Romans would be complete without creating Roman shields and armour!

### **PE**

Our PE sessions this term are on Thursdays and Fridays. We will be beginning with rugby, building our skills in team games and incorporating elements of competition and achieving our individual personal best. As the weather cools, please ensure your child has a tracksuit in their PE bag at school and a spare pair of socks for those who wear tights to school.

### **RE**

Our religious education topic begins this term with a study of Sikhism, with a focus on beliefs into action. In the second part of the term, we study Christianity and the concept of incarnation and the Christmas story.

### **Music & French**

We are fortunate to have specialist teachers with Mrs Long and Madame Dekhar teaching the class music and French respectively every Wednesday.

### **PSHE**

Our theme for autumn is relationships. Through discussions and activities, we will cover aspects of making positive friendships, how to respond to hurtful behaviour, managing and recognising risks including online as well as recognising and respecting differences and similarities.

### **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 5 minutes, followed by a Q&A session from the class. If children wish to use a PowerPoint file, please send via the Class C email below.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do get in touch via email [ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk) I will endeavour to check messages and respond between 3.30pm and 4pm each day. If you have any urgent messages for the day, please do send in a note or telephone the office, who will pass on the details to me.

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

*C Evans*

Mrs Evans