



THE AGE OF EMPIRE
YEAR 4 SPRING TERM

The Big Idea: "*All right... all right... but apart from better sanitation and medicine and education and irrigation and public health and roads and a freshwater system and baths and public order... what have the Romans done for us?*". In this fascinating topic we will explore the concept of *Empire* and examine how Empires rise and fall. From the Roman Empire to the British Empire, the Persian Empire to the Ottoman Empire, we will ask ourselves, what is Imperialism and is it OK for Empires to exist? How has the Roman Empire shaped Britain today? What has been the legacy of the British Empire? What does an Empire actually look like? By asking these questions we will begin to understand how the world of today has been influenced by the Empires of past and present, and how future Empires could rise from our modern world.

As Language Specialists we will be reading fiction texts such as *Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman which explores a young girl's journey through a mystical landscape in Japan. We will also be reading *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket which links to our topic of empire. Drawing inspiration from these stories, as well as the dinosaur chase scene in the film "Night at the Museum", we will create our own fiction texts based on the mind-blowing events which occurred in Pompeii in 79AD. Non-fiction work will include creating non-chronological reports about Mount Vesuvius and its surrounding area.

As Mathematicians we will be consolidating our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. Work around parts of a whole, looking at fraction and decimals, and measurement (length, including area and perimeter) will also be part of the Spring Maths curriculum. Learning our times tables will also be essential this term, with daily work on Mastering Number to support us.

As Geographers we will be studying maps of Europe and identifying countries across this continent. We will learn how to use 6-figure grid references in our skills focus lessons. We will then be doing a deeper dive into the fantastic, history and geology rich country of Italy, learning about volcanoes on the way in order to fully understand the magnificence of the fascinating Mt Vesuvius.

As Historians we will learn about the Roman Empire and its invasion of Britain. We will explore what Roman life was like in Britain and investigate how the size and nature of the Roman Empire changed over time. We will compare the Romans to other vast empires in history, such as the British and Ottoman Empires. We will also learn about the great British Celtic warrior Boudica, who led the uprising against the Romans in England.

As Scientists we will be identifying appliances that run on electricity and constructing series circuits using cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will be exploring common conductors and insulators, investigating which metals conduct electricity the most efficiently. A project around natural power sources (such as solar power, wind power and the water powered mills used by the Romans) will also be on the Year 4 agenda. We will also be investigating the concept of sound by understanding how it travels through air and how it varies with different pitches and frequencies.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will be developing our defending and attacking tactics in netball. We will be improving our communication, team building and problem solving skills in outdoor and adventurous activities.

As Theologians we will be asking, 'What is it like for someone to follow God?', focusing on the story of Noah, and we will consider why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'.

As members of our community we will be learning about money and its role in society. We will also be relating this to the growth of capitalism across the world.

As Musicians we will be continuing to develop our Ukulele skills with a focus on increasing our chord knowledge and learning to read tabs to play songs.

As speakers of French we will be learning how to describe ourselves and others, including the characters in *Asterix the Gaul* by Rene Goscinny.

As Artists we will be studying Roman mosaics and why they were important in Roman life, then create our own mosaic-inspired designs in different ways. We will make mosaics using paper and real stone tiles, developing our own patterns and ideas.

As Computer Programmers we will be amalgamating our computing skills to create various presentations including QR Codes, Vlogs, Leaflets, PowerPoints and texts based on the Romans.

As Design Technologists we will be making Roman catapults out of different materials to put on display in our Roman Museum exhibitions, as well as testing the distance they can fling.

Knowledge of the World
What were the major achievements of the Romans? How do their achievement compare to those of other empires?

The Arts and Sports
Who were the Roman gladiators?
How could you become one and was it like to be one?

Enquiry
What artefacts and evidence exists from Roman times? What do these artefacts look like, where are they kept and why have they lasted so long?

Ambition and Possibilities
What will future empires look like?
Will they be a force for good or will they be a force of destruction?