

Age of the Roman Empire

Music: Using the BBC Radio website the children will explore the different aspects of Roman life that we cover in our topic lessons through songs written by David and Carey Grant. They will have the opportunity to learn the singing arrangements for these tunes and practise them outside or at home.

English: The children will all have a focus on reading which will underpin much of our English work this term. We will be exploring text to inspire creative writing and using books across our topics to discover new language. In addition, the children will be unpicking the grammatical terms and standards that help them construct sentences and written pieces.

Written outcomes will include a recount of a day in the life of a Roman, which the children will pick a focus for. They will explore traditional stories of Roman Gods and Goddesses to write their own legend and they will also write an informal letter about life in the Roman Army.

We will also provide opportunities for drama and learning through role play and hot seating.

DT: Towards the end of the term the children will be using all their learning about the Romans to create their own Roman artefacts. These will be curated into a mini museum, and the children will prepare materials for a (virtual) tour that we can share with their families.

PE: Outdoor Adventure Activity – The children will use their problem solving skills and learn about orienteering to solve a series of challenges similar to the road building Romans. Yoga – To further develop their emotional understanding we will use reflective Yoga poses and practices.

Science: By exploring a variety of ways to identify, group and classify living things, the children will learn how animals are split into categories (eg invertebrates and vertebrates) and begin to consider the differences within these classifications. It also introduces the idea that environments are human-made or naturally occurring.

Topic: The Romans are such a rich and interesting historical force that provide the children with a very exciting return for this term. They will learn about when in history the Romans came about their way of life and how that influences our lives today. The children will be able to investigate different groups within the Roman Empire and the role they played. It always proves popular when we study some of the unusual elements, like communal toilets!

Art Week: The whole school community has started the new term with Art Week! This year we've explored the idea of a journey. Our inspirations has come from Roman mosaics and we are creating our own bird mosaic designs.

Computing: During our first week, the children will be continuing to develop their knowledge of online safety and how that applies to them and their digital footprint. In addition, they will be learning the pertinence of effective searching predominantly through our English and Topic work.

Maths: Our focus for the first half term is always centred on place value and understanding number which is true again this year. It will be critical for us to make sure the children have no gaps in their learning in order to then deliver a mastery curriculum.

To begin the term there will be lots of opportunities for number play and games as well as the children using numbers in a variety of contexts, like number lines and missing numbers. We then use this learning to teach formal and informal methods of solving addition and subtraction questions and the vocabulary that is used in word problems for these operations.

There will also be the continued use of materials online that children may use in school and at home.

PSHE: Children will describe some of the qualities of a good friend and develop strategies for making and keeping friends. They will understand and be able to cope with changes in friendship patterns, and know some ways to resolve conflict and other issues in friendships.

Aquila and Cygnus Class

Welcome back and we really hope that you are happy to be returning to Monkfield Park this term. We have all been through some very challenging times over the last two years but in Year 4 we are ready and raring to launch into a new year of learning and discovery. Please be assured that your child's safety and wellbeing are paramount in our minds and learning will be adapted and tailored to the needs of the class as appropriate.

We would ask that if you do have any queries during the year, please do not hesitate to contact one of us at the door or make an appointment through the office.

Homework

Your children should now be familiar with our new style homework grid on Seesaw. It clearly sets out the expectation for home learning and gives the children a chance to be more independent in spreading their work over the week. As always, homework is set on a Monday and now must be uploaded to Seesaw by the following Monday – if for any reason the children are unable to upload at home they can ask to use one of the class iPads in the mornings to upload work from their homework books. Both reading and spelling activities should be daily and we encourage this regular practice. The online maths learning and grid activity can be completed on any day and should take around 30 minutes. As a reminder we have included the extract from our school policy showing the whole school expectations.

Key stage 2

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Year 3/4</i>	<i>Year 5/6</i>
Daily	Reading	Minimum 10 mins	Minimum 15 mins
Daily	Spelling	Minimum 5 mins	Minimum 5 mins
Once per week	English/Topic Grids	20-30 minutes	20-30 minutes
Once per week	Maths	20-30 minutes	20-30 minutes

PE

Year 4 PE is on THURSDAY. Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit, to avoid the need for the children to change during the school day, in line with our new procedures. Lessons will, where possible, take place outside. As such, it will be necessary for them to wear the appropriate kit consisting of: jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt, a white T shirt, blue shorts and sensible, supportive training shoes.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th September	Art week
Monday 13 th September	Meet the Teacher evening
Monday 27 th September	Harvest Festival week
Friday 9 th October	Cygnus Class – Virtual Assembly
Monday 11 th October	Individual and sibling photographs
Tuesday 12 th October	Parent consultations (5pm – 7.30pm)
Thursday 21 st October	Parent consultations (4pm – 6.30pm)
Friday 22 nd October	End of term
Monday 1 st November	First day of Autumn 2