The Roman Empire and its impact upon Britain

The focus of this learning theme is the expansion of the Roman Empire. **In history,** children improve their understanding of chronology by ordering key events including some before and after the Roman Empire. Children will handle historic artefacts, ask questions about them and speculate as to their use. Understanding these objects gives us a way in to thinking about everyday Roman life. **In computing,** children will learn about how to search the internet effectively and use this skill to research Boudicca and Hadrian's Wall. The children will use what they know about Roman artefacts to create a basic web page. They will learn to respond to each other's pages and contribute to online forums responsibly. **In geography,** atlas skills and the children's knowledge of the countries of Europe will be improved by identifying which countries were conquered and became part of the Empire. In addition, children develop their understanding of natural resources, minerals in particular, and their distribution. We look at how the Romans wished to invade to exploit these resources. **In English**, we study one of the Roman Mysteries books by Caroline Lawrence which helpfully has a great TV series.

Content:

- Everyday Roman life, including heating, objects for lighting, objects for writing, hygiene and self-care
- Roman baths
- The structure of Roman houses
- The expansion of The Roman Empire and the areas that were conquered
- Boudicca and the British rebellion
- The Role of Hadrian's wall
- Ingredients that The Romans brought to Britain for the first time
- How the Romans cooked and dined
- Why The Romans invaded Britain (the natural resources that attracted them)

Key skills and understanding:

- ask perceptive questions and think critically when interpreting historic artefacts
- know and understand about the expansion and dissolution of the Roman Empire, including some reasons as to why the Romans invaded
- use key vocabulary: empire, invade, attack, defeat and rebel, BC, AD
- order BC and AD dates
- develop their understanding of how knowledge of the past is constructed from different sources
- understand some aspects of Roman technology such as hydraulic mining and road building
- create a set of design criteria for a target audience
- explore ingredients using senses and find good combinations
- locate counties and countries using an atlas