

Year 5 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the second half term: When the Romans Came: Invaders and Settlers

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 5 will be exploring **When the Romans Came: Invaders and Settlers** — discovering how and why the Romans invaded and settled in Britain, how Emperor Hadrian left his mark on our own region, and how Roman engineering still shapes the North East today. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

Our CARE Curriculum

When the Romans Came is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 5, 'Awareness' means understanding past civilisations and how they continue to shape the world today — including the Roman legacy right on our doorstep at Hadrian's Wall and Segedunum Roman Fort.

Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading Little People, BIG DREAMS: Jane Austen as a class. Jane faced rejection and setbacks but kept on writing, going on to publish stories that are still loved more than 200 years later. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: just as Jane Austen's resilience meant her stories outlasted her, the Romans' roads, forts and walls have left a legacy that still shapes Britain — and our own region — almost 2,000 years later.

Science and History this half term

We're learning about the Romans in Britain, and the properties and changes of materials:

- What an invasion is, and how and why the Romans invaded Britain
- The Roman Empire and its emperors (with a focus on Hadrian), famous battles, Boudicca's revolt, and the Roman legacies still visible in the North East today
- Comparing and grouping materials by their properties, including which materials make good thermal insulators
- Separating mixtures by sieving, filtering and evaporation, and how dissolving and changes of state can be reversed

At home, you could stir some salt into warm water, pour a little onto a saucer and leave it on a sunny windowsill — when the water evaporates, the salt will be left behind!

Maths this half term

We're building on our number work with multiplication, division and fractions:

- Weeks 1–3: Multiplication and Division — multiples and factors, and prime, square and cube numbers
- Weeks 4–6: Fractions — finding equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, and comparing and ordering fractions

At home, you could practise times tables together on the way to school, or share out a pizza or cake and talk about the fractions you've made.

English this half term

Reading and writing poetry inspired by The Tyger by William Blake.

Music this half term

Guitar with Mr Dunn (Gateshead Music Service) for the first two weeks, then adding a tuned accompaniment to part-singing and performing as an ensemble

RE this half term

Jesus — how did he speak truth to power? Exploring the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus's teaching on generosity and wealth, the story of Martha and Mary, and what Jesus's challenge to power means for Christians today.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: “Why do you think the Romans wanted to invade Britain?”
- Ask: “Why did Emperor Hadrian build a wall right across the north of England?”
- Ask: “What’s the difference between melting and dissolving?”
- Ask: “What do you think made Jane Austen resilient?”
- Try together: look for Roman links close to home — Wallsend got its name because it's where Hadrian's Wall ended!

Words you might hear at home

invasion, civilisation, conquer, emperor, soluble, insoluble, thermal insulator, pulley, compare, justify, evaluate

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers media literacy and deepfakes, gambling, and keeping our things safe, plus two lessons finishing last half term's Relationships learning: how words have power, and keeping safe — knowing the difference between surprises and secrets, and which trusted adults to tell. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 5. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- A day trip to Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend — Tuesday 3rd November

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the second half of the autumn term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



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