

The Romans



Our most recent Learning Adventure saw the whole school travel back 2000 years to the time of the Romans. For six weeks, the children immersed themselves in learning all about the Roman army and the consequences of the Roman invasion on life in Britain. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and interest shown by all of the children in this fascinating period of history. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the many exciting learning experiences, which the children participated in during the Learning Adventure ...

Living History

Once again, the school worked with The Ancient Technology Centre to provide children with the opportunity to learn about History through a range of 'hands on' activities. This approach enables children to learn about the History curriculum by living it for themselves – an approach which promotes deeper and more meaningful learning experiences.

The Learning Adventure began with the visit of two Roman soldiers (in full costume – you may have seen them on the school field!), who introduced children to life in the Roman army. In addition to this, we were also visited by two Roman traders, who demonstrated some of the tools and artefacts, which would have been traded at the time. This acted as an ideal starting point for children to raise questions about the things they found of particular interest ...

LEARNING ADVENTURE NEWS

We then embarked upon our workshops with the Ancient Technology Centre, which provided a range of activities linked to life in Roman Britain. Here's an example of some of the many activities the children participated in:

- We built our own Roman fort in the corner of the school field, which was constructed by digging a raised mound with a ditch around the outside.
- We built a short Roman road covered with small cobbles, which were pounded into place by our road building team!
- We learnt about Roman Gods / beliefs and recreated a roadside shrine by the side of the Roman road.
- We explored traditional male and female roles, which saw the boys practise their writing skills on clay tablets, whilst the girls took charge of food preparation, including the making of bread. This then led to thoughtful discussion about gender roles in modern society.



Rushcombe Romans

At the end of the Learning Adventure, the whole school came together in one final celebration of everything we had experienced and learnt about. During the final day, each year group participated in a Roman soldier drill session, in which children learnt about the organisation of the Roman army. They practised marching in their legions and also created the infamous 'tortoise shell formation' (testudo).

By the end of the day, each year group was ready to take part in one final drill, which involved all children across the school. The children assembled on the school field in their legions (class groups), with each child equipped with their own Roman shield and each class having their own standard to be carried at the front. The orders were then given for each legion to march in formation around the school field – it was an amazing spectacle to see, which was very much enjoyed by all of the children.

The school remains very proud to offer such high quality learning experiences for all of our children in the area of History. In conjunction with The Ancient Technology Centre, we have pioneered the approach of utilising historical camps on our school grounds, which are accessed by all children across the school for a two week period. We very much look forward to continuing to develop this approach in future years.