

## Salve!

### Organising a Roman day

A Roman day at school can be an enjoyable, memorable and educational experience for the students (and teachers and support staff!). It needs plenty of planning to run smoothly so, if you are considering having a Roman Day as part of your coverage of teaching Romans in Britain, we hope that these notes and pictures will help you have a successful day.

### Support from home

You will need support from home for the making of costumes and the making of a Roman meal, so a pleasant letter to homes explaining your plans will help start the project moving. You may find that some parents and carers are very enthusiastic and may volunteer ideas and resources.

▼ Getting in to the swing of the day by using hired costume.



## Costumes

Information about Roman costumes is found on page 105 activity **15A**. You may also want to have a few Celts present. Information about their costume is found on page 25 activity **2A**. This information is basic and you will find that on the day the students will present a range of costumes from simple citizen to Caesar or the emperor's wife! It would be useful to have two or three basic costumes made by you or the school staff for students who, for any reason, do not have a costume on the day.

You will also need to consider when the costumes are worn. Do you want them to wear the costumes all day and go out at breaks and lunch-times in them? Do you want them to be worn after morning break, through lunch-time to afternoon break, or do you just want them to be worn in the afternoon?

▼ You may feel that simple dress is appropriate: these children simply wear wreaths.





▲ It's great fun for children if they can dress up properly, as shown here.



► Explaining about the food.

## Food

The students could make up a Roman lunch box and bring it to school. In activity **16A** pages 110 and 111 a display of Roman food is suggested. You may like to use this as a basis for planning meals.

If you plan to take your students to a Roman site and make a preliminary visit see if the shop sells books on Roman food; some do. Some of the recipes are quite simple and you may be able to organise for them to be made for consumption in line with your school policies and health and safety.

Romans drank wine; the children could drink fruit juice. The students should bring in a lettuce leaf to eat at the end of the meal. The Romans believed that this aided digestion.



▲ Bringing in a 'Roman' lunch  
(link to science 'food, teeth and eating').

▼ A Roman feast from the local supermarket.



## Activities on the day

### First session

- The Roman alphabet (activity **7B** pages 60 to 61).
- Making a writing tablet (activity **7C** pages 62 to 63) or the students could have made this earlier in a craft orientated lesson.
- Writing your name in Roman letters on the writing table.
- Speaking Latin (activity **3B** pages 34 to 35)
- Writing some Latin words on the writing tablet. You may be surprised how “Roman” it can look.

### Second session

- Roman numbers (activity **3C** pages 36 to 37).
- Also let the children use the Roman number cruncher at [www.CurriculumVisions.com](http://www.CurriculumVisions.com) (choose the Romans Book from the UK home page, then Number Cruncher from the list that appears. This is the same location as the page for page book support.)
- Afterwards, or alternatively, you could use
- Roman coins (activity **12A** pages 90 to 91).
- What’s it worth? (activity **14** pages 100 to 101).



◀ Looking for buried artefacts.

▶ Showing what candlelight (and oil lamps) might be like. Link to science (light and shadows)



## The Roman lunch

### Afternoon sessions

The students could break into groups and each group work on one of these activities.

You may like to enlist the help of support staff and school volunteer helpers to supervise the activities and give general help to the groups of students.

- Post holes (activity **2B** page 26 to 27).
- The ballista (activity **5B** pages 48 to 49).
- Sending signals (activity **11B** page 86 to 87).
- Broken pottery (activity **15B** pages 106 to 107).
- Make and play knucklebones (activity **17** pages 116 to 117).
- Make a model villa (activity **19A** pages 124 to 125).

The day could end with a plenary session and the students bidding each other goodbye in Latin:

**vale!**



▲ Using a simple writing tablet and stylus.

▼ Showing a tablet and stylus.

