The Roman Legacy

Language, writing and numbers

Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write in Britain. Instead, information was usually passed from person to person by word of mouth.

The Romans wrote down their history, their literature and their laws. Their language was called **Latin**, and it wasn't long before some people in Britain started to use it too. However, it only really caught on in the new Roman towns - most people living in the countryside stuck to their old Celtic language.

We've still got lots of words and phrases today that come from Latin. Words like 'exit', which means 'he or she goes out', and 'pedestrian', which means 'going on foot'.

Some clocks today still use Roman numbers. Can you tell what the time is?

Our coins are based on a Roman design and some of the lettering is in Latin. Written around the edge of some £1 coins is the phrase 'decus et tutamen' which means 'glory and protection'.

We still use many words that have a Latin root.

Find as many current words as you can that have a Latin root – can you find out what the root word means?

Latin root word	**audi-**	**aqua-**	**ex-**	**contra-**	**vac-**	
Meaning	hear					
	audible audience					