Knowledge Organiser for Year 3/4

Topic: Romans

Key questions:

H4: Why did the Romans invade Britain in 43AD?
H5: Why did the Romans settle in York?
H6: Who was Boudicca?
H7: Who was Julius Caesar?

Key facts:

H4 Why did the Romans invade Britain in 43AD?

Around 2,000 years ago, Britain was ruled by tribes of people called the **Celts**. But this was about to change. For around a century, the Roman army had been building an Empire across Europe. Now it was coming for Britain! In **43AD**, the full might of the Roman army landed on the beaches in Kent. Over the next year it battled inland, storming through hillforts and chopping down anyone who stood in their way. The Romans wanted Britain's precious metals. However, they weren't just a destructive force - they built new forts, new settlements and roads. They spread their culture, language and laws.

H5 Why did the Romans settle in York?

In AD 71 the Romans decided to quell local skirmishes in the north of England and the Ninth Legion marched on the York area, choosing to settle in the marshy meadowlands near the river seeing it as a suitable site on which to build a fortress. Eboracum, as they named the new city, was to advance into a thriving and prestigious Roman centre. The Romans built their impressive fortress between the Foss and the Ouse establishing a major military base from which to launch assaults in their desired control of the warring Brigantes and other local tribes. The River Ouse was crucial for transportation of men and supplies to the settlement from the North Sea. The chosen site also provided good possibilities for land access. The ridge on which York stands was used by the Romans as their main approach to the city and the two rivers afforded important defences. The area where York stood then, which is slightly raised, would have been more so in the Roman period when rivers were almost three metres lower than the present day.

H6 Who was Boudicca?

We don't know much about Boudicca, because she lived many years ago. And only two people, called Tacitus and Dio, wrote about her at the time, but their stories were very different.
Boudicca was married to Prasutagus, the King of the Iceni in Eastern England. Back then, parts of Britain were ruled by the Roman Empire. Prasutagus trusted the Romans and promised to leave half his land to them and half to Boudicca. But when he died, the Romans took everything and were very cruel to Boudicca and her two daughters. In the year 60, Boudicca fought to take back her land. The Roman army was fighting in North Wales, too far away to save the Roman towns that Boudicca's army attacked. Her army destroyed the towns of St Albans, Colchester and London and killed thousands of people. But when the Roman army returned, it tricked Boudicca's army into a narrow valley, where it was trapped and beaten. This was called the Battle of Watling Street, and afterwards, Rome ruled most of Britain for 350 years.

H7 - Who was Julius Caesar?

Julius Caesar was born on 13 July in the year 100 BC - his full name is Gaius Julius Caesar. Caesar created the Julian calendar, which is the basis for the calendar we use today! He also commanded all of Rome's armies, and won many battles that gave more land to Rome. Caesar was elected consul of Rome in 59 BC, which is the highest political office you could have at that time. He invaded Britain twice in 55 and 54 BC, but he didn't try to set up any permanent forts.Additionally, he was the first person to have his own bust (face and neck) printed on a Roman coin. Julius Caesar's defining moment was when he crossed the Rubicon, a river that bordered Rome, and led an army to take over the government. By the end of the Roman Civil War in 45 BC, Caesar had been appointed 'Imperator', which meant Roman leader for the rest of his life. Unfortunately for Caesar, he was killed the next year, 44 BC, on 15 March.

Key Vocabulary/ People:

- Julius Caesar
- Boudicca
- Settlement
- Rubicon
- Imperator
- Emporer
- Celts
- Baths
- Circus
- Colesseum

- Civil War
- Eboracum
- AD
- BC
- Resistance
- Latin
- Vulgar Latin
- Roman Numerals
- Aquaduct
- Gladiator
- Chariot