

Dringhouses Primary School
Enjoying Excellent Education

Date: 13th September 2021

Latin at Dringhouses

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know Mrs Donaghy, our fabulous French teacher for many years, retired in July and I will now be teaching Modern Foreign Languages to KS2. Although French has been the language taught up until now at Dringhouses, in fact any language can be taught. The purpose of studying a language in KS2 is to:

‘broaden children’s experience of different cultures and vocabulary... to enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts, and feelings in speech and writing...as well as preparing them for language study at KS3’.
(Department of Education)

After much thought and research I have decided to change the language we learn to Latin. The main reasons are that I think this will best achieve the objective as well as being really interesting. Millthorpe and York High offer a choice of languages in Y7 and they start from scratch as not every primary school teaches the same language, so no one will be disadvantaged by not doing French. In fact they will be at an advantage as Latin has had such an influence on many European languages that we will already have covered a lot of French and Spanish in our course.

We have received support from Kings College in London who have produced an excellent Latin Course for primary schools. To have a look at the fascinating things we will be learning, the whole course is available online...you could learn along with us if you like! Here’s the link:

<https://maximumclassics.com/course-overview/>

We are doing the 4 year course that you can find from this page.

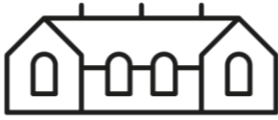
The aim of the course is not to learn how to speak Latin fluently (!) but rather to look at English through the lens of Latin, and to explore how languages are constructed and connected. 60% of English words have a Latin root and their original meanings often make you see things in a different way. This week we discovered that the word ‘umbrella’ comes from the Latin word ‘umbra’ which meant ‘shadow’...this word is linked to ‘shade’ so your umbrella is your own little shadow to protect you from the rain (or the sun). JK Rowling has sprinkled a lot of Latin around in the Harry Potter books – Dolores Umbridge comes from Latin words ‘dolor’ meaning ‘sorrow’ and ‘umbra’ – ‘Sorrow Shadow’... it’s a pretty good name for her isn’t it?

Latin is phonetic and easy to read and pronounce. After we’ve explored some vocabulary we will look at grammar, always with reference to English, so it should really help with the dreaded SPAG. Then there are all the amazing myths and legends, not to mention the fact we live in a Roman city. I’m sure we will be able to squeeze in a school trip or two to find out more about Eboracum.



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Family contact - hello@dringhouses.co.uk | All other enquiries - admin@dringhouses.co.uk



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We made a start this week and the children seemed really enthused, as am I. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to email me on cclarke@dringhouses.co.uk, or come and find me.

Many thanks,

Clare Clarke



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