

Monday 6th January – Homework

For your homework this half term read the story of Boudicca, a famous warrior who battled against the Romans. When you have read the story choose from **ONE** of the activities in the grid below to show your learning.

Create a wanted poster for Boudicca. What information would you include about her? What would you warn people about?	Write your own version of the Boudicca story. Show the emotions and mood of the story.	Create a playscript of the story including the setting description/stage directions for each of the characters.
Illustrate each part of the story and label using words from the story.	Create a front and back cover for a Boudicca book. Don't forget the blurb	Create a newspaper describing the events of the rebellion.

If you would like to show your learning in a different way you can. We look forward to seeing your creativity in the New Year.

Have a fantastic break,

The year 4 team.

Queen Boudicca's Rebellion

In 61CE the Romans faced a huge rebellion. It took them by storm and they came close to losing Britain back to the Celts. It is remembered as one of the most serious attacks on the Roman Empire and the leader of it was a woman...

One of the areas of Britain, known as Iceni, was run by the Celtic tribe the Iceni. This area is near to the city of Colchester on the East of South England. The King of Iceni, Prasutagus, was friends with the Romans.

In Britain the Romans allowed tribal kings to have nominal rule as long as they kept in line with Rome. In 61CE the king died and his wife Boudicca, who was known to hate the Romans, became queen.

The Romans wanted her to give up her throne and they had been demanding taxes. Boudicca had had enough and decided to attack the Romans. She managed to drive them from Iceni effectively.

Just south of Iceni was Trinovates, a tribe that did not like the Romans much either; they had already had several disagreements with them. Boudicca joined forces with the Trinovates and they decided to march on Camulodunum (Colchester), which was the Roman capital of Britain.

As the rebellious army of Iceni and Trinovates tribes marched south they destroyed anyone and anything Roman, causing mass destruction. The Romans received news of the rebellious army and immediately sent troops to try and stop them before they reached the capital.

The Romans were worried as most of their troops were off fighting in Wales and Devon and so they knew they were weak. They thought that if they stopped the Celts before they reached Colchester they would quell the rebellion early. However, a vicious battle ensued and the Romans were brutally slaughtered by the Queen's army.

By the time they reached Colchester they were already famous. They took the whole city, killing the Romans, including the older retired soldiers who were hiding in the temple.

After Boudicca's success in Colchester she began to march her army south to London, which was another very important city for the Romans due to its trade routes, excellent sea and road access. Again, on their way the rebels destroyed all Romans and Roman buildings. When they reached Londinium they took it by storm.

News got back to Rome, who sent a message that this was to be sorted immediately. They could not believe a Celtic Queen and her army were slaughtering Romans. After such a massive victory Boudicca decided to continue and attack a Roman city of Verulamian – she wanted to take back the whole country for the Celts.

When the Roman army in Exeter (Devon) heard about the rebellion they were too scared to come back and fight. The rest of the army, who were in North Wales under the leader Tacitus, returned to somewhere in the Midlands to meet Boudicca's army and finish them for Rome and the Empire!

Tacitus employed typical Roman battle tactics and placed his army at the top of a hill with a forest behind him so he would face the enemy from one direction. It is said that he only had 10,000 infantry against Boudicca's army of nearly 200,000!

The rebels were not frightened as they thought this would be yet another slaughter of the Romans. They even invited Celtic women and children to come and watch the battle, so sure of victory were they.

The Romans unleashed javelins down the slope onto the rebel army and then followed this with a mass charge of infantry, all moving as one unit very close together in true Roman style. This broke up the Celtic army and forced them to retreat back to where the wagons with the women and children were watching.

The rebels were trapped and a huge massacre ensued. There were very few British survivors. It is said that only 400 Romans were killed while 80,000 Celts died!

Boudicca may have lead a successful, powerful rebellion up till then, and had a far larger army, but she was defeated. However, the queen was not captured and she escaped and drank poison to kill herself rather than wait to be captured by the cruel Romans and taken to Rome to be tortured.