

# CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of the Camp Hill Classics Newsletter! This is the newsletter for anything to do with ancient Greece, Rome and other Mediterranean cultures such as ancient Egypt.

## Ancient Greek Laptops?!

Our cover image might look like a picture of an ancient Greek man working on a touchscreen laptop with a stylus, but he is actually using the ancient equivalent of a notebook: a wax writing tablet, which had a cover (lifted up in the picture) so that the wax would not get damaged. This image is from a red-figure cup painted by the Douris painter in around 480 BC (currently in the Berlin Museum), and this side of the cup shows a seated teacher and a student standing to the right of them. You can view more images of this cup here:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/artifact?name=Berlin+F+2285&object=vase>

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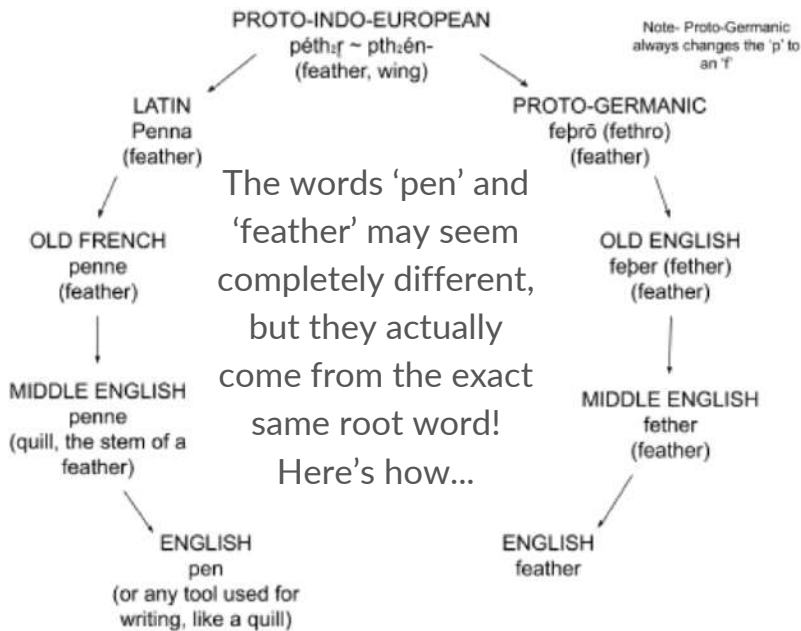
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This fresco of a sea nymph was painted on the side of a takeaway counter in Pompeii - read more on page 3

# Did you know?

## Etymology Spotlight by Anna Cooke 12S



you've heard of elf on the shelf,  
but what about



Meme sent in by Amelie in Year 10

The theme tune to the Dark Materials series is sung in Latin, and the lyrics are actually based in part on a sentence in Philip Pullman's novel *The Golden Compass* and in part on lines from the Roman poet Virgil's fourth Eclogue.



### Lyrics

susurros immortales  
audiunt haruspices.  
incipite parvuli!  
incipite parvuli!  
procedant menses magni;  
incipite, incipite...

### Translation

The fortune tellers hear immortal  
whispers.  
Begin little ones!  
Begin little ones!  
Long months may pass;  
begin, begin...

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# Classics in the News...

## Pompeiiian Takeaway Unearthed

Suhaanie in Year 7 spotted this article about an ancient fast food takeaway which has recently been excavated in Pompeii, revealing painted frescoes with pictures of what foods might have been sold.

This photo shows the counter of the takeaway, known in Latin as a *thermopolium*, and the openings are jars which would have held the food. The wall paintings show some ducks (upside down as they are ready for cooking!) and a rooster. Duck bones have been found in one of the containers.



**You can read more about this here:**

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-55454717>**

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## More Human Remains Uncovered in Pompeii

Alliyah in Year 7 sent in this article about some more recent excavations in Pompeii - this time the remains of two men who died in the eruption of Vesuvius have been discovered.

Archaeologists think that one of the men would have been wealthy, as the remains of a warm, woollen cloak were found with him. The other man is thought to have been enslaved, as his remains show evidence of hard manual labour.



The photo does not show the bodies themselves, but rather casts made by archaeologists of the impressions that the mens' bodies left in the hardened ash during the eruption.

**You can read more about this here:**

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-55029538>**

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# Making Pompeiian-style bread

by Dr Kerr

Over the holiday I tried to recreate a Pompeiian-style loaf of bread. Bizarrely, whilst no recipes for Roman bread have survived (whereas we have recipes for fish sauce, honey cakes, salad, etc...), we do have actual loaves of bread from Pompeii, which were found in an oven when the ruins of a Pompeiian bakery were excavated. These loaves - carbonised from the heat of the eruption - have a distinctive wheel-like shape, and some had even been stamped with the mark of who made them.



Unfortunately, as well as not having a clear recipe, we also don't know exactly how the loaf was shaped. Various experimental archaeologists have come up with theories, from cutting the dough before baking it, squashing a wheel-shaped mould into the top of the dough, or using string to make the indentations.



From looking at the pictures of the carbonised loaves, and a wall-painting of a bakery from Pompeii also showing these round loaves, I thought it was unlikely that the marks in the top were caused by cutting into the dough (which would leave an open slash, rather than an indentation). I didn't have a wheel-shaped mould handy (!) and so I decided to try string.

Roman bread would have been made with spelt flour and a 'starter' instead of yeast, but I just used a normal, modern bread recipe (wholemeal flour, yeast, salt and water - and a pinch of sugar that the Romans definitely would not have had access to!), as I was more interested in recreating the shape, rather than the taste.

After I mixed and kneaded my dough, I shaped it into a rough blob, and tied a string around the middle. Then I used another piece of string and - holding it taut - I pressed it into the top of the dough four times, to make the eight indentations in the top. This type of loaf was referred to as *panis quadratus*, and so making four (*quattuor*) indentations seemed appropriate!



I left the bread to prove and then baked it. The final result wasn't exactly the same as the Pompeiian loaves (although it tasted better than a carbonised one would!) as it had risen quite a lot in the middle, but the indentations were still visible. It was also good fun making sandwiches out of wedges, as we cut the loaf up like a cake.

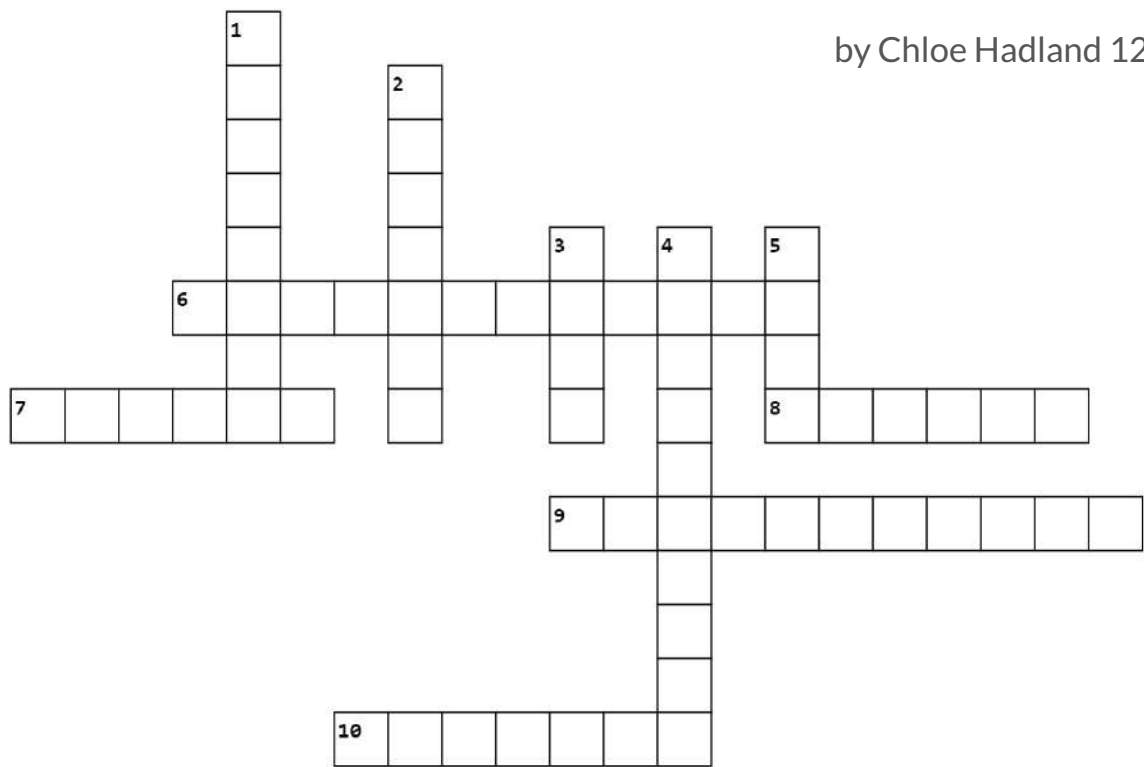
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**If you want to make your own Pompeiian-style loaf then I recommend watching the Tasting History episode on the *panis quadratus* for inspiration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw2qrt6tOKw>**

# Classics Crossword

by Chloe Hadland 12SW



## Across

6. The Colosseum is an \_ (6)
7. A Greek city named for the Goddess Athena (6)
8. Greek city-state famed for its army (6)
9. A Roman method of execution, important in the Bible (11)
10. King of winged horses (7)

## Down

1. An ex-slave (7)
2. Emperor who had a wall named after him (7)
3. Unpopular Roman Emperor (4)
4. Volcano that destroyed Pompeii (2, 8)
5. Greek king of the gods (4)

# Mythology Word Search

by Mamta Garikapati 11M

Find the English translation of these Latin words!

E	R	C	L	P	N	Q	U	E	I	S	S	N	A
Q	T	M	E	D	E	R	C	A	S	S	S	E	E
R	U	N	O	O	P	O	M	R	O	E	M	O	L
E	O	E	N	U	N	S	U	Q	E	D	T	Y	P
S	O	U	E	P	N	P	N	S	E	D	N	K	M
P	O	L	T	N	T	T	I	I	R	O	D	I	E
R	Q	R	T	T	O	T	O	N	D	G	E	N	T
A	E	R	T	L	D	E	O	L	P	A	O	G	T
E	N	I	E	W	R	N	R	P	Y	E	E	A	N
P	D	N	I	D	I	O	M	E	O	M	N	U	P
P	E	L	I	T	N	N	A	O	D	G	P	D	S
A	I	N	M	E	K	E	E	M	P	O	C	U	R
O	S	I	W	E	S	T	N	N	C	W	E	S	S
T	S	A	U	R	O	R	E	P	M	E	O	E	I

**IMPERATOR**  
**TEMPLUM**  
**MONS OLYMPUS**  
**DEA**  
**REX**  
**REGINA**  
**VINUM**  
**SACER**  
**BIBERE**  
**APPARERE**