

The background of the image is a teal color with a pattern of embossed Latin text. The text is arranged in horizontal lines and is partially obscured by the main title. The visible text includes: "TDEFOSSVRISQVOE", "REPTVM SVPERIOR", "ERIOR SICINTELE", "SSVPERIORESTIARS", "VICVIVSAQVAMREC", "ERIORQVAEMITIC", "VSADSIGNARVTSCTR", "ISQVIMVODVSV", "REFORATIONISHA", "RTAMENOPERISI".

HOW TO START LATIN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

WHO IS LATIN FOR?

Latin is for everyone. Ancient languages (Latin and Ancient Greek) are specifically named in the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum as languages suitable for study by children aged 7-11¹. With cross-curricular links to History, Design and Technology, Science, Geography, Art, English and Modern Foreign Languages, Latin is being taught in more and more primary schools across the country.

IS LATIN JUST FOR CLEVER KIDS?

It has been thought for many years that Latin was best-suited to learners of higher ability, but recent research indicates that it has a significant positive impact on the literacy skills of children performing below age-related expectations. Latin provides a structure around which less able learners (as well as learners who speak English as an additional language) can begin to build a clearer understanding of the way languages work.

WHY TEACH A 'DEAD LANGUAGE'?

Latin is a methodical language – formulae and rules govern the use of nouns, verbs and other types of words. This rigorous approach to word-level and sentence-level linguistic competency builds a strong foundation for literacy across the curriculum.

In particular, Latin is a language which unlocks a world of vocabulary, etymology and deeper meaning since around 60% of English words come directly from Latin roots. There is scope to integrate the learning of Latin and the KS2 spelling list, helping anchor knowledge of spelling and meaning in a wider linguistic context.

¹ In Scotland, Latin qualifies as a possible L3 in line with the 1+2 European languages policy.

BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK IT?

It is possible to speak Latin, but this is not necessary. To meet the KS2 objectives for ancient languages, only reading and writing are required. For learners who find the need to speak and listen in other languages challenging, Latin offers an additional benefit.

CAN ANYONE TEACH IT?

Primary teachers are specialists in multiple disciplines so Latin simply represents a new challenge! The level of linguistic knowledge required for KS2 is relatively basic and excellent training is available to help primary teachers cover the content and pedagogical approaches necessary for student success. Teachers can usually get started after just one day of training. A second day is recommended after a term, to consolidate teachers' knowledge and build their confidence.

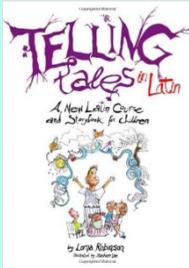
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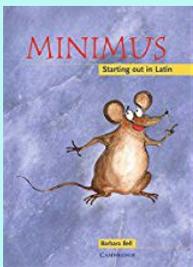
ARE THERE COURSE BOOKS?

Yes – there are various course books available and most are accompanied by teachers' handbooks.

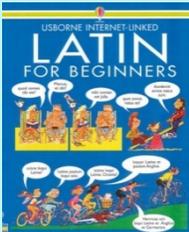
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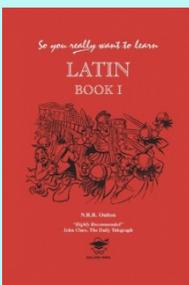
Telling Tales in Latin
Lorna Robinson
Souvenir Press (2013)
ISBN: 9780285641792



Minimus: Starting out in Latin
Barbara Bell and Helen Forte
Cambridge University Press (1999)
ISBN: 9780521659604



Latin for Beginners
Usborne Publishing Ltd (1993)
ISBN: 9780746016381



So You Really Want to Learn Latin?
N.R.R. Oulton
Galore Park (1999)
ISBN: 9781902984001

Details of all course books can be found on the [Classics in Communities](#) website.

ON CURRICULUM OR AS A CLUB?

Latin (and Ancient Greek) 'count' as languages suitable for study under the KS2 Languages curriculum so schools can choose to teach Latin instead of (or in addition to) a modern language. Giving Latin space in the mainstream curriculum ensures access for all pupils. This approach provides the greatest opportunities for Latin to boost cognitive development.

Some schools may prefer to start Latin as an off-timetable 'club'. In this scenario, teachers should decide to whom the club is being offered, how regularly it will run and what content is to be covered (free from the KS2 curriculum requirements).

Latin can be used as an intervention strategy for learners performing below age-related expectations in literacy. For more information on this approach, contact Classics in Communities.

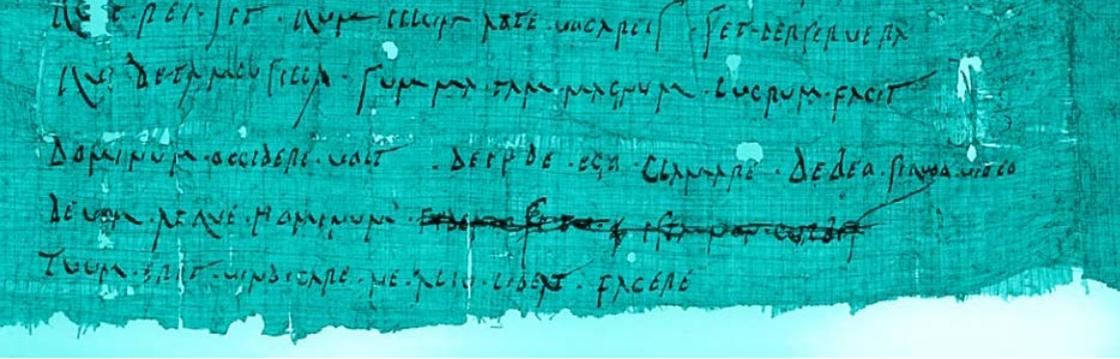
DISCUSS WITH COLLEAGUES & SCHOOL LEADERS

While it is possible for Latin to thrive in the classroom of one enthusiastic teacher, experience shows that the best results are produced when staff teams embrace the subject together. It is a good idea to discuss your interest in starting Latin with your school leader(s) and literacy champion(s). Other schools in your area may also be interested in starting Latin – sharing ideas and experiences can help embed Latin and make it a success for teachers and pupils.

IMPACT ON LITERACY

Research is currently underway to explore what impact learning Latin has on children's cognitive development. From the initial research findings, it would appear that there is a strong positive correlation between the learning of Latin and the development of literacy skills at KS2. In some cases, huge leaps have been made. The study will run until 2018 when final results will be published.





CONTACT *CLASSICS FOR ALL* TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR LOCAL

Classics for All is a national charity which gives funding to state maintained schools (inc. academies) to widen access to the study of Classical subjects in schools. The charity has set up a number of regional hubs, to bring together primary schools, secondary schools, and Classics academics to share knowledge and expertise. Further information (including details of regional contacts can be found here: classicsforall.org.uk/our-grants/regional-hubs)

BUY RESOURCES: SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMAN STUDIES BOOK GRANTS

Up to £500 is available from the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies for the purchase of books and teaching resources. Guidelines on eligibility and applications forms can be accessed here: www.romansociety.org/grants-prizes/funding-for-schools.html

CLASSICS IN COMMUNITIES

The Classics in Communities project (classicsincommunities.org) is a partnership between the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge and the Iris Project. It was set up in response to the primary curriculum reforms which were implemented in England from September 2014. In the Key Stage 2 (KS2) Languages curriculum policy Classical Greek and Latin can be chosen for study by pupils aged 6–11. The project particularly targets schools which might not otherwise consider the option. It has twin aims: to equip teachers in primary schools with the skills and knowledge necessary to teach these languages; and to conduct parallel research to determine the impact of Classical language learning on children's cognitive development.

Classics in Communities has run training workshops for teachers in Glasgow, Belfast, Oxford, Cambridge, London and Birmingham. It has organised and hosted two conferences on Classics education, one in 2013 and another in 2015.

Additional resources for getting started with Latin (including skills progression grids) can be found at classicsincommunities.org/teaching-materials/latin-classroom-materials

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, contact Emma Searle, the administrative assistant at the Classics in Communities project:
emma.searle@classics.ox.ac.uk

