Before the Roman Roads

Before the Romans arrived, Britain had no proper roads. The Celts rode horses, walked and travelled in carts pulled by oxen along paths and tracks. These paths and tracks connected local farms and hamlets, and there were some longer routes for trade. These tracks were often in very poor condition.

1. Why do you think the Romans wanted to build new roads?
2. Can you think of 3 possible reasons?
Roman Roads

Why did the Romans want better roads?

Did you think of any of these reasons?

- Troops could be quickly moved from one place to another.
- Supplies could be sent to different areas of the country.
- Better links between places was good for trading.

The Emperor had more control if messages could be sent quickly.
Roman Roads

The Romans were famous for their long, straight roads. You can still see some Roman roads today, two thousand years after they were built.
The first roads linked ports with military centres.

Work with your partner. Use maps to locate the places.

Why was it important for the Romans to link the military centres to the ports?
The First Roman Roads

The Fosse Way was the first great Roman road in Britain. It ran from Exeter to Lincoln, passing through Bath, Gloucester and Leicester.

Can you find The Fosse Way on your map?

- Lincoln
- Leicester
- Colchester
- Richborough
- Dover
- Lympne
More Roman Roads

Over the years, the Romans continued to build more roads, linking to many places throughout Britain.

Eventually around 2,000 miles of Roman roads had been built.

Other Routes
- Chester to York
- London to Lincoln to York
- Chester to Carlisle
How did they build the roads?

To build a Roman road we would need to:

1. Dig two ditches, each 2ft wide.

2. Put all the earth in the middle to make a camber so that rain will drain off into the ditches.

3. Spread gravel on top to make a smooth and compact surface.

4. Add rough stones to make a hard surface.
Roman Road Cross Section

Can you name the parts of this Roman road?

- Paving stones cut to fit
- large stones
- gravel
- broken stones/pebbles/sand/cement
Roman Road Cross Section

Work with the other children in your group to design, plan and make a 3D model showing a cross section of a Roman road.

Use the junk modelling materials and paint creatively to make your road look as realistic as possible. Make sure that you show all of the different parts of the road.