



Where there newspapers in Ancient Rome?

No, not really.

Because **paper did not arrive** in Europe from China until 400 years after the Romans left Britain, you won't be surprised to hear that they didn't really have newspapers like we have today.

However, they did have **official notices** called *Acta Diurna*, or "daily acts", which were displayed in popular meeting places like the forum, the market and the baths.

They covered military, legal or local matters, lists of games and gladiatorial bouts, births and deaths and even human-interest stories, much like today's newspapers.

Originally, these were written on metal or stone but by the time the Antonine Wall was built, sheets of **papyrus** were used.

What language did the Romans speak?

Romans spoke, read and wrote in **Latin**

In 140 AD/CE the Latin alphabet had only **21 letters** (Emperors added and took away letters regularly!) A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, X— there was no J, K, U, W or Z.

J was replaced with I
U was replaced with V

The official Latin that you see on statues and stone tablets are all **upper case**, but Romans did use upper and lower case letters called *Latin cursive*.



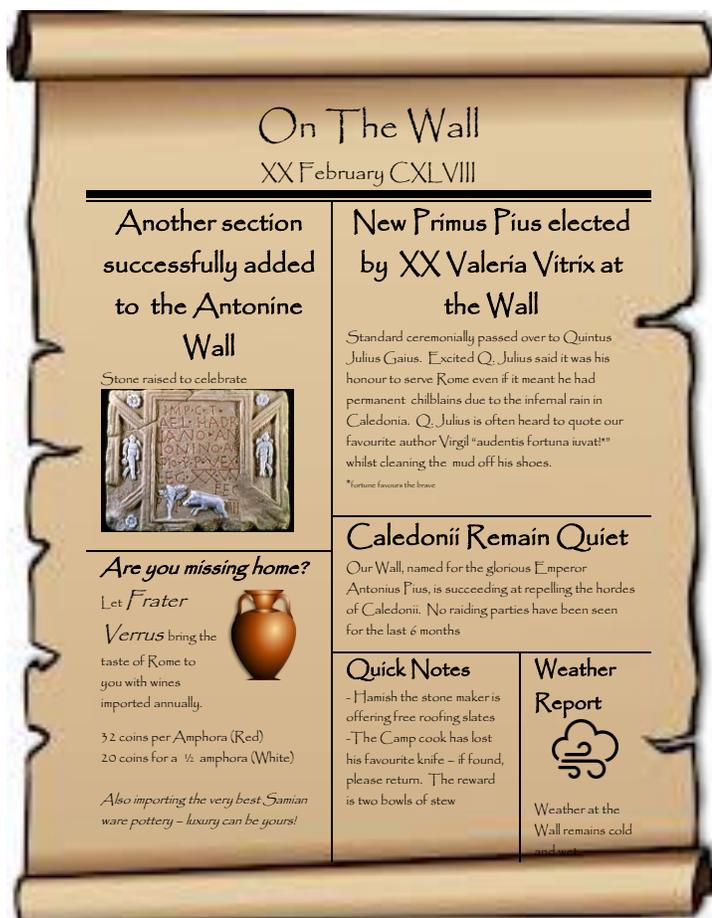
Now it's your turn ...

ACTIVITY: Imagine you are part of the Roman Army at the Antonine Wall and you have been tasked with setting up a newspaper to make sure everyone is up-to-date with the latest information.

Don't forget which letters you can/can't use! **Design** your newspaper however you like, but remember, it would probably have only been one page.

Before you start, **think**:

1. What are you going to call it?
2. What sort of information would soldiers want to know?
3. How would you welcome new soldiers?
4. Can you introduce one of the items you have seen at The Hunterian or on the website e.g. announcing the unveiling of a new altar or distance slab; a cobbler putting in an advert for mending shoes?



This is what papyrus looks like

It was first made in to 'paper' by the Ancient Egyptians

Click [HERE](#) for a 40 second animation on how papyrus sheets are made

Or click [HERE](#) to see how to make your own recycled paper in case you don't have any papyrus lying around at home!

If you want to use a template, here is one to try ...

Put the name of your newspaper here		
		Put your biggest story here
Use these for adverts	Use these for adverts	