

School's treasure trove!

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Staff and pupils at Jubilee Primary School, in Little Walton, were amazed earlier this week to learn that a Roman coin hoard worth thousands of pounds was unearthed. The coins were found during excavations for a new extension that is being added to their school building.

What's it worth?

Of the many questions they have about the fantastic find, probably the main one is "How much is it worth?" Head teacher Mr Parkinson said, "Even though we knew Romans had lived in this area, it was still a total surprise. We don't yet know the value of the hoard, or if we will receive any money."

Finds such as these do not automatically belong to the finder or the person on whose land they are found. The hoard is what is known as 'treasure trove' and has been reported to the police. Early reports suggest the value may be as high as £100,000, but that might be shared between the Crown, the school and the finder.

Digger driver's discovery

Jimmy Craig, 32, the digger driver who unearthed the hoard said, "I don't know if I'll get any reward or not. After all, I was just doing my job." When asked how he discovered the coins, Mr Craig told us "They were in a big old pot that my bucket scraped against. The pot broke and I could see round things inside, but I didn't know at first that they were coins. They were covered in dirt."

Project Romans!

The discovery has sparked off a big interest in the Romans and their time spent in the area. Children from Years 1 to 6 are all finding out more about these ancient invaders. "I think the Romans were very interesting," said Rachel, aged 7. If some of the reward money comes their way, she and her schoolmates may have a lot to thank those Romans for. Mr Parkinson told us "We could afford an even bigger extension if we get a portion of the reward, and I'm sure there will be lots of ideas for how to spend any money that might be left over."