

## *The Iron Age*

People lived in Britain long before the Romans invaded nearly 2,000 years ago (in AD 43). These people had different tribal names in different parts of the country, and in Devon they were known as the Dumnonii. Later, the Romans called all these tribes the Britons. They



lived in farms, villages and sometimes in hillforts, with houses, streets, workshops and temples. Their farms and fields covered large areas of the countryside. Today archaeologists call this period the Iron Age, because the people had learnt how to make tools and weapons from iron.

Iron Age houses were nearly always round, with just one large room for the whole family. There was often a fire in the middle of the room for cooking and warmth. The walls of the houses were built from stone, wood or clay and the roofs were thatched with straw or reeds. Often a farmhouse or village would have a large ditch dug around it to help keep out wild animals or enemies.

Iron Age people were very good at making things. They made beautiful jewellery from bronze, glass and sometimes gold. They could also make armour, musical instruments and weapons, which they often decorated with beautiful patterns. Some of these patterns can be seen on the pieces of pottery found at the school. Archaeologists call this rare pottery Glastonbury ware or Southwest Decorated pottery because it was only made in this part of the country.

