The Roman Wax Tablet

Evidence of the Romans written work is found on stone, papyrus, pottery, tiles and tablets. Formal education in Rome began at the age of seven for the middle and upper classes.

The wax tablets are hollowed pieces of wood filled with wax and then the stylus which may be made of metal such as bronze or even wood were pointed on one end to write in the wax and then flat on the other end to erase the writing.

The most famous find of these tablets in England was the Vindolanda tablets near Hadrians wall. Although all the wax has long since gone from the tablets evidence was found in the form of indentations on the wood where the stylus had pushed through. Shopping lists, communiques and letters such as the following were found.

“Claudia Severa to Lepidina, Greetings! A warm invitation to you, sister, for the third before the Ides of September, my birthday. Come, and make the day enjoyable by your presence”.