

Year 2 Newsletter

Spring 1

Our topic/theme this half term is:

The Great Fire of London!

In this topic, we will be exploring the significant events that occurred during the Great Fire of London. We will learn about the important people of the time and how the event changed London.

Our Key Texts this half term are:

The Great Fire of London – 350th anniversary GFOL of 1666 – Emma Adams and James Weston Lewis

Toby and the Great Fire of London – Margaret Nash

Diary of a Killer Cat – Anne Fine

Winter's Child – Angela McAllister

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Guided Reading this half term, we will be focusing on the following objectives:

- Read words in age-appropriate books accurately and fluently without overt sounding and blending, and sufficiently fluently to allow him/her to focus on understanding rather than decoding
- Explain and discuss his/her understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that he/she listens to and those that he/she reads for himself/herself
- Checking that the text makes sense to him/her as he/she reads and corrects inaccurate reading.
- Recognising simple recurring literary language in stories and poetry.
- Make inferences on the basis of what is being said and done

Writing:

In Year 2, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Write narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional).
- Write about real events to develop positive attitudes and stamina for writing.
- Consider what he/she is going to write before beginning by writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary.
- Make simple additions, revisions and corrections to his/her own writing by re-reading to check that his/her writing makes sense and that verbs to indicate time are used correctly and consistently.

We will be writing diary entries. We will focus on developing the following specific skills:

- Use time connectives.
- Use adjectives.
- Use subordination and co-ordination.

We will be writing newspaper reports, including the following skills:

- Using first person
- Use sequenced sentences to retell events.
- Edit and improve our writing.

In grammar, we will be covering the following areas: Use expanded noun phrases; use commas in a list; use subordinating conjunctions; use different sentence types such as statements; use the past tense consistently.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Multiplication and Division

Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.

Calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division within the multiplication tables and write them using the multiplication ($\times$), division ($\div$) and equals (=) signs.

Show that multiplication of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and division of one number by another cannot.

Solve problems involving multiplication and division, using materials, arrays, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication and division facts, including problems in contexts.

Statistics

Interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables.

Ask and answer simple questions by counting the number of objects in each category and sorting the categories by quantity.

Ask and answer questions about totalling and compare categorical data.

We will regularly practise our times tables (2s, 5s and 10s) and our key number facts to develop speed of recall and confidence using these across our Maths units.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

Our unit of science this half term is focused on materials. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses
- Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Carry out simple tests
- Use simple features to compare, group and sort
- Make simple observations using simple equipment.
- Notice patterns and relationships, with support
- Communicate findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language, with support

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on programming.

- I know what an algorithm is.
- I know what a computer program is.
- I know what it means to run a program.
- I can explain the steps in a simple algorithm.
- **I can break a problem down into smaller steps.**
- **I can spot an error in an algorithm.**
- **I can write a simple algorithm on paper.**

We will also learn about cyberbullying:

- I can explain the importance of being kind and polite.
- I can describe how to be kind and polite when online.
- I know what to do if I find something inappropriate online.
- I can say what action to take if I feel unsure about something.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History

Our focus this half term will be on significant national events beyond living memory, focused on the Great Fire of London.

We will be exploring some of the following questions:

- How did the fire start and what route did it follow?
- How long did it go on for?
- Who did it affect?
- Who were significant people that were alive then?

We will be also explore the historical significance of the Great Fire and make comparisons with the modern day.

- How has it affected our life today?
- How has the fire service changed?
- How has the fire service changed since 1666?
- How would the fire service have put the fire out today and how could it have been different today?

RE:

In RE this half term, we will be exploring how different people, with different religious beliefs worship (including Christians, Sikhs, Jews, Hindus and Muslims among other faiths).

We will explore differences and similarities between the faiths we study.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art: Children will be exploring scale and perspective, by recreating zoomed-out stories and collages of the Great Fire of London. They will use artists such as Griffier and Verschuier as inspiration.

We will develop the following skills:

- Begin to control the types of marks made with different painting techniques eg. layering, mixing media, adding texture.
- Continue to explore printing simple pictures with a range of hard and soft materials.
- Shape, form, construct and model from observation and imagination

DT: Linked to our topic, we will be creating Tudor houses, exploring real-life examples before planning and constructing our own using different materials and adding finishing touches.

We will develop the following skills:

- Design purposeful, functional, appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through talking, drawing and templates.
- Select from and use a range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks (e.g. cutting, shaping, joining and finishing).
- Explore and evaluate a range of existing Tudor houses.
- Evaluate their ideas and products against design criteria.
- Build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable.

Music: Improvise and Compose

Children will learn to write simple four-beat rhythms using Kodaly rhythm format (ta, tete, tikatika) and perform in an ensemble in the style of a samba band.

Children will start to experiment with the idea of improvisation by making up four-beat rhythms on the spot to a pulse.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Gymnastics and Dance.

Gymnastics

- Positions of stillness referring to shapes on varying numbers of contact points and body parts.
- Transfer of weight e.g. from one position of stillness to another.
- Short movement phrases – linking positions of stillness, jumps and introduce travel movements.

Dance (linked to the Great Fire of London)

- To explore travelling and pathways showing control, change of levels/speed/direction and unison. Show the ability to copy basic movements and create short motifs with a partner and in small groups

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Working Together'

- Name some of their own strengths and skills.
- Identify a new skill to develop.
- Understand and practise listening skills, take turns and make clear explanations.
- Understand and practise group work skills, including discussion, negotiation and co-operation.
- Be aware of how their strengths and skills can be useful in a group.
- Be able to evaluate a group work task.

We will also explore the theme of 'Financial Capability':

- Understand that we can receive and spend money in many ways.
- Know how to save and look after their money and why we might do so.
- Begin to understand the difference between wants and needs and the need for informed choices.
- Begin to understand family spending and the impact of choices.
- Begin to understand and manage some of the changing feelings associated with money.
- Have a simple understanding of what charities might do and why we have them.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths-

Multiply, equal groups, groups of, once/twice/three times, repeated addition, arrays, commutativity, divide, division, share equally, left over, group, equal groups of, multiplication table, multiplication fact, tally, pictograms, block diagrams, scaled diagrams, graph, represent, label, title, most/least popular, most/least common.

English-

Diary entry, Newspaper report, poetry, subordinating conjunctions, past tense, expanded noun phrases, commas in a list, alliteration, exclamation, sentence openers

Science-

Materials, properties of materials, strength, waterproof, transparent, opaque, flexible, hard, strong, absorbent, solid, rough, smooth.

History-

flammable, eye-witness, past, future, evidence, cathedral, timeline, similarities, differences.