



The Great Fire of London

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to term 1 of a new school year.

This term our topic will be focusing on The Great Fire of London. *We will use the question 'Why was the fire great?' to develop a deeper understanding as to why the fire happened and why it was so destructive. We will find out about the lives of people who lived at the time and what the fire taught the people of London and the rest of the country.*

English — Recount and instructions

Linking with our topic on The Great Fire of London the children will learn the events and be able to sequence them correctly to produce oral and written recounts. We will be focusing on sentence writing ensuring that capital letters, finger spaces and full stops are used correctly. Where they have been forgotten we will be developing our editing skills. Year 2s are introduced to noun phrases and conjunctions (words that join phrases and clauses to form a more complex sentence). Year 1s will work on using 'and' to join words and phrases in their writing. We look at instructions and the layout of this text type. We consider why the steps in instructions are so important. As the fire started in a bakery, we have a go at making bread and write instructions for these, keeping in the correct tense.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. *Children's* spelling words will be stuck in their reading diaries; please look over these and help your child to learn them. The words chosen will link to the sounds they have learnt in Phonics. To extend your child's learning further, please ensure they understand the meaning of the word and can include it in a sentence, either orally or written.

Reading

Children will be heard reading individually, in groups and during whole class reading. When in groups and individually the focus will be on decoding and their understanding of the text. During whole class reading they will focus on the skills needed to comprehend what they have read. Our whole class reading book is *'The Fire Cat'*, which links to our topic. *As well as listening to picture books the children will be listening to 'The owl who was afraid of the dark'.*

Book bags and diaries need to be in school *every day*. *The children's books will be changed once a week*; please record any home reading in the reading diaries as the school competition for the class with the most home reading will happen again this year.

Science — Materials

In Science we are focusing on the uses of everyday materials. The children will name common materials that are found around them, recognising that objects can be made from different materials. They will talk about the properties of a material and why it is used to make certain objects. Based on their new knowledge about materials we will investigate which materials would make a good bucket.

Maths

We start the term working on measuring length and height. We practice the vocabulary used and encourage longer, taller and shorter, rather than bigger and smaller. The children measure accurately using non-standard and standard units. They think about which objects we would use centimetres to measure, and which would be measured in metres.

In number we continue to develop our knowledge of place value. Year 1 pupils will re-cap the place value of numbers to 10, focusing on being able to count, read and write the numbers, then going on to compare groups and using <, > and = signs. Year 2 pupils will be looking at the value of numbers to 100, again, ensuring they can count, read and write these, represent them in different ways and partition them.

Mathletics homework will be set weekly for both Year 1 and 2 children. Log ins will be inside their reading diaries. The activity set will link to what they have done in class. Please support your child but let them do the Maths if possible, remembering it is fine to use a piece of paper and other 'stuff' eg counters, pennies and drawing, which they will be used to in class. Year 2s will receive log-ins for Timetable Rockstars, a website to help them practise their times table recall.

PE

This term, the children will be taking part in dance and games sessions. Dance will be linked to our topic of The Great Fire of London and games will focus on running and jumping. These sessions will be on the following days on which the children should wear their PE to school:

Nightingales: Monday and Tuesday

Robins: Friday and Wednesday

Wrens: Friday and Wednesday

RE

Our theme this term in RE is God. We will be finding out about what Christians believe God is like through listening to stories from the Bible and learning how and where *Christian's* worship.

PSHE — Being me

Our whole-school theme this term is Being Me. The children will be talk about their hopes and fears or the coming school year making contributions in discussions and listening to others. They will recognise and understand their rights and responsibilities when in the classroom and around school. They will know that their classroom rules help them to learn and keep them safe and if they are not followed there are consequences.

Computing

We will re-cap how to be safe when online, what is appropriate behaviour and what to do if you see something unpleasant online.

Year 2s will be learning how to log on to the Chrome books independently and open Google documents. They will learn how to save and retrieve files they have created.

Some final reminders...

- Please make sure bookbags come into school every day. Children need to show their teacher their reading diaries daily to help us ensure children are making the best progress possible.
- Can the children keep in school a named pair of wellies and a named set of clothes.
- Please make sure that all jumpers, and any other clothing children may take off, are clearly named.
- Water bottles should only contain water and also be named. Wherever possible, sports cap designs are ideal.
- Children receive fruit daily. If your child wants to bring in a snack from home, please ensure these are fruit or vegetables.
- When preparing home packed lunches please be aware we have children with survive nut allergies in our Key Stage.

We are all really excited about the year ahead. Please do keep in touch – we appreciate it can be more difficult to chat at drop-off and pick-up times, so a reminder that our phase email address (keystageone@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) is checked regularly, should you have any specific questions or queries.