

Dear Parents

Just a few lines, to let you know what I am hoping to teach the children, in this new term.

Topic: Lovely London

This is both a history and geography based topic. In case you haven't been in the classroom - prepare yourselves - the walls are bright orange and red! The children quite rightly guessed that they are my meagre effort to represent fire. I must admit, my eyes have adjusted well and it does feel warmer!

We have started the topic by going back 350 years to The Great Fire of London. The children will learn to sequence the events of those 5 terrifying days; how and where did the fire start, how did they try to control the spread, was anyone hurt, how do we know about it and how was it put out? The children will make comparisons between fire fighting then and now, helped by the Daventry Fire Brigade.

We will look at life in 1666, the people and their houses. We will then move forwards in time and compare London of the past with the London we know today. The children will think about how the buildings have changed and will have the opportunity to become architects and design and draw their own modern building. I am hoping to put these new 'buildings' up and create our own London sky line.

I have bought a simplified children's map of London and we are going to follow different routes and use different modes of transport to move around London looking, as we go, at old and modern buildings, museums, galleries and tourist sights - starting at St Paul's and ending up at Buckingham Palace. The children will discuss the Queen's role, her other homes and the Royal Family and will then create their own family tree.

I may be alone in this, but for the sake of our science curriculum I would like a heavy snowfall and some frosty weather as Year 1 children need to record changes in temperature and their surroundings, during the winter season. The children will also look at Materials and consider why certain objects are made out of a particular material. Reception children will build a variety of houses for The Three Little Pigs and decide which material is best suited for the job.

Art activities are planned around the topic and there will be a 'Take Home' task coming your way around half term.

PE will continue to be taught by Mr Canning and will be indoors - the children will be able to use the apparatus this term and learn to climb and dismount safely and correctly.

Friday Adventure will continue so please send in warm coats, hats and gloves to add an extra layer to their waterproof trousers/suits.

Music, as always, is ably taught in Year Groups, by Mrs Limb, following the Music Express Scheme of Work.

Numeracy this term will practise skills learned last term and develop new ones. Reception will be focusing on the properties of 2D shape - they will be able to describe the shapes they see, recognise them in different orientations and create patterns. They will also use everyday words to describe position, show an awareness of symmetry and learn how to find a half and a quarter of a shape. They will be able to order several items by weight and capacity. Reception children will know 1 more than and 1 less than, simple addition and subtraction and begin division by giving out objects fairly.

Year 1 will investigate 2D and 3D shapes, describe position, direction and movement, including whole, half, quarter and three quarter turns. They will read, write and solve number sentences, learn to share objects into groups of 2 and 3 and learn to double and halve 2 digit multiples of 10.

Phonics for both Reception and Year 1 will be taught through Read, Write Inc. Reception will be encouraged to use their phonic skills to write in simple sentences and Year 1 will be expected to punctuate their sentences correctly and extend using and, then, before, after, because etc.

Year 1 will have spellings each week to encourage them to write high frequency words correctly and to be able to read and write number words to ten and twenty. They will be taught simple spelling patterns in class. They will learn about compound words and be able to count out syllables correctly. They will learn to name the letters of the alphabet in the correct order. The children will read poetry, fiction and non fiction texts and learn to write simple recounts, instructions and chronological text.

In ICT, Year 1 will practise using a keyboard and will input instructions to make a toy robot move around the floor. Reception will use 'talking tins' to listen to instructions and to record their own for a friend to follow.

Finally, RE will pick up from last term and focus on identifying key features of places of worship within Christianity.

I hope you liked your 2017 calendars (and will keep them to show at your child,s 18<sup>th</sup> !!) The display board as you come into the classroom is now empty and awaiting items from home - please send in photos or certificates or hand written notes of anything special or significant that your child has achieved/succeeded in, at home or at a club. We will celebrate this together and put what you send in up on the wall.

Thank you for supporting us with snack money - the children love that little blue table and are very willing to 'test' (some children, several times in one day) whatever is put out on it. Please may I ask you for a donation of £5 for this first half term.

Thank you too for those who have helped with reading last term and a big thank you to Saeko for putting on waterproof clothing and helping with Friday adventure. We really couldn't go out and do this without your most reliable support - if anyone could spare a Friday afternoon, even on a rota basis, to help with changing clothes and toilet runs from the garden, I would be most grateful. There is so much to be gained from this outdoor curriculum.

So, finally, thank you for supplying all that we ask for and supporting us in all that we do with your little ones.

Sally W