London's Burning

Year 2
Autumn 2
2026/27

Project Overview

Our focus for this half term will be The Great Fire of London. The children will explore the historical evidence of this event and will respond through a variety of curriculum areas. This project will lead directly on from 'Home Sweet Home' and will build on our previous learning of London. We begin our project with a drama workshop all about the Great Fire of London where the children will learn what it must have felt like to be there in the middle of London when the fire took hold. We travel back in time and follow the story of the Great Fire of London using historical artefacts, drama and information texts. Finally, the children employ a new architect to design London and consider what the City of London might look like in the future. Once we enter December, we will start practising for our KS 1 Christmas production and our learning in class will reflect this special time of year.

English

The children will begin by reading the book 'Vlad'. They will follow the story of Vlad the flea and Boxton the rat as they try and escape the Great Fire of London. Once the children have got to know these characters they will learn to write in the past tense, use coordinating conjunctions and use expanded noun phrases to write a diary entry as Vlad or Boxton. We will then use the book 'The Great Fire of London' by Emma Adams and James Weston Lewis to learn to recognise the difference between fact and fiction books. The children will learn to write statements in the past tense, use subordinating conjunctions and write an opening and closing. The children will write a fact sheet giving their reader information about how the Great Fire of London changed firefighting forever.

Maths

This term we will start with a measurement unit where we will look at money. We will recap the value of different coins and notes before finding different ways of making the same amount. We will then link this with addition and subtraction money problems. We will then go onto looking at multiplication and division where the children will be able to count reliably in 2s, 5s and 10s. This will then link with making groups using objects and pictorial representation. At the end of the half term we will then look at addition and subtraction again where the children will now be using a structured number line to record their workings out with numbers up to 100.

Science

We will be continuing our learning on Everyday Materials that we begun in Autumn 1, and will undertake some more Scientific investigations.

RE

We will explore our feelings and experiences of Christmas and consider how we prepare in our homes, at school and how the Christian community prepares for this special time. We will listen to and re-tell the Christmas story according to the Gospel of Luke and the children will look at images of Christmas including on cards. They will learn about Advent traditions and consider their meaning. Finally, they will have the chance to reflect and describe their own response to the concept of giving and thankfulness.

Geography

Not in this project.

History

Through this project, the children will be looking at the events and significant individuals involved in The Great Fire of London. We will then travel back through time to discover the City of London in 1666. Through research and our English text, we will gradually piece together the causes of the Great Fire and the solutions offered to extinguish it. Finally, we will look to the future to design the buildings that might be built in London.

Art

During this term, the children will be drawing, painting, printing and moulding, all with a link to our project. The children will explore hot and cold colours to produce an abstract response to the Great Fire in paint. They will learn to colour mix secondary colours using the three primary colours. They will use this knowledge to create a back drop for their printing using shaving cream and primary and secondary colours. Finally, the children will learn how to produce prints of the Great Fire of London using block print Tudor houses to add to their back drops.

DT

Not in this project.

Music

The music learning for this term will focus on the songs and music for our KS 1 Christmas production. Through this the children will be improving their diction and memory of songs but also learning to rehearse and share a performance with an audience.

Spanish

Spanish is not taught in Key Stage 1.

Computing

This half term the children will recognise the importance of privacy and learning how to remain safe online.
Through the software programme '2Animate' the children will learn about creating moving pictures on the computer. They will also experiment with flipbooks.
During their Word Processing lessons the children will learn to copy and paste an image into Word.

PE

The children will be copying and exploring basic movements and body patterns linking to The Great Fire of London. They will think about using all the space available, moving along different pathways and working their bodies at different heights, also working with a partner to create rhythms eg the pumping action of water.
Through Getet4PE, they will focus on sending and receiving in team games to develop throwing, catching, agility and coordination.

PSHE

Making friends; feeling lonely and getting help.

Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour.

Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively; sharing opinions.