

Chawson 1st School

Autumn 2 Topic Letter

Year 2

ENGLISH

What? Plan and write a recount about 'The Great Fire of London' using descriptive vocabulary.

Why? Your child will learn to write information which includes:

- ♦ Writing in the past tense- including understanding and using verbs in the past tense
- ♦ Capital Letters and full stops
- ♦ Adjectives to describe things and feelings
- ♦ Writing questions and the correct punctuation

WOW! Children will get to see what life was like in 1666 through the eyes of a flea that lives on a rat.



Help at home by:

Talking about the meaning of fire related words e.g. flames, ash, cinders and smoke.
Discuss how things which happened in the past have changed the world.
Read as many fire themed books as you can.

Our next topic this half term is:

The Great Fire of London.



MATHS

What? The children will be learning subtractions of 2 digit numbers, recapping names and properties of 3D shape, multiplication and division, applying their knowledge of counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 and representing their work in different ways.

Why? The children will apply their addition learning to subtraction and reinforce new methods of working they have learned. Understanding multiplication is fundamental to the children's understanding of maths concepts such as doubling, halving and fractions and improves their instant recall.

WOW! Children will work practically with a range of equipment and learn their times tables through fun and engaging songs/activities.



Help at home by:

You will have noticed that your child has been completing a times table quiz and has been bringing their results home. Please help your child to practise and learn any unknown calculations ready for their quiz the following week. Remember to also use TT Rockstars and Hit the Button for practise. (<https://ttrackstars.com/> and <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>). Please let us know if you have misplaced the TT Rockstars login that was handed out at parents' evening.

Cross Curricular

What? The History of London, the events of the Great Fire and how the fire changed London.

Why? Learning about the Great Fire teaches us about the differences between the past and present. We learn about fire safety and staying safe. The Great Fire topic inspires some lovely Art and Design work using drawing and sketching skills the children have been learning.

PE Information:

2C- Tuesday and Thursday

2MJ - Monday and Thursday

2T- Monday and Tuesday

Homework:

Times tables and spellings will continue to be sent home weekly. Children will also have a homework project to complete on the Great Fire of London.

Reading books will continue to be changed every Monday and Thursday.

Upcoming trips and visitors:

The Great Fire of London workshop: We are currently in the process of sorting this for January. Details will be sent out when they are finalised but it will cost approximately £6.

Important dates:

Thursday 19th December- Christmas fun day.

Friday 20th December—Break up for Christmas.

Monday 6th January- Spring term starts.

Great Fire of London Topic Fact Sheet

The Great Fire of London began at one o'clock in the morning on **2 September 1666**. It started in a bakehouse on **Pudding Lane** that belonged to **Thomas Farriner**. The fire started as a small fire but it soon turned into an enormous fire and spread very quickly.

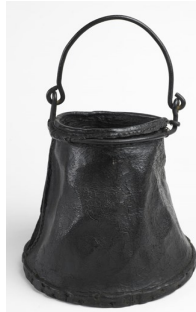


In 1666, London didn't have a fire brigade. Here are some artefacts from the time. We will find out about each one but what do you think each thing was used for?

Fire squirt



Leather bucket



Candle snuffer



Fire hook



Many of the houses were made of timber and straw. They were very close together and leaned over into the narrow streets so the fire was able to spread very quickly.



The fire destroyed two thirds of the city. It destroyed 13, 200 houses and 430 streets. It also destroyed St. Paul's Cathedral and 87 parish churches. The fire could be seen from forty miles round the capital and burned for four days.

Key vocabulary:

- ♦ **Samuel Pepys** - an eyewitness who wrote a diary about the fire and how people escaped.
- ♦ **Eye-witness** - a person who has seen something happen with their own eyes (e.g. Samuel Pepys).
- ♦ **Diary** - a book a person writes about what they have seen or heard or what they have been doing.
- ♦ **Artefact** - objects that give us information about life in the past.
- ♦ **Timber** - wood that is used to build houses and buildings.



The reason we know so much about the fire is because **Samuel Pepys**, who was alive at the time, wrote a diary and described the dramatic events. He was an eyewitness.