

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! The children have settled quickly to work after their Christmas holiday and are already very inspired by our new history topic, The Fire of London.

We have two topics this term. In the first half term the topic will be Materials. This will involve learning about the properties and uses of materials. Links will be made with this topic to The Fire of London and the story of Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat. After half term, the topic will be Van Gogh, the Church and Christian family. Children are always welcome to bring in any photographs or artefacts linked to our topics to show the class.

School Visits

Before half term, Year 2 children have the privilege of a visit to the Pepys Library at Magdalene College to see the actual diary of Samuel Pepys, containing his account of the Fire of London. This is a local trip so the children will be walking and there will be no cost.

After half term, there will be a whole day visit to Ely Cathedral as part of our RE topic about The Church. The cost per child will be about £7.50 to cover transport, insurance and admission fees. In the case of insufficient contributions being made the event/activity may be cancelled. We welcome parent helpers to accompany the children on both of these trips and will inform you of the details nearer the time.

Literacy

Our focus in Literacy this term is traditional stories from a variety of cultures, including stories from the Bible, such as 'Joseph's Coat'. Some Literacy work will be related to topics. We will also be focusing on speech marks, commas and general punctuation. Weekly spellings will continue to be sent home for practise on a Friday with a test the following Friday. In class the children will be undertaking regular phonics practise. We also hope all children will be joining their handwriting by the end of term.

Reading will continue in the same way as last term, with class teachers changing the children's guided reading books once a week. The children will also have a free choice reading book, chosen independently from their levelled book box or sometimes from our exciting library. This can be changed whenever children need to. We would be very grateful if children's book bags can be in school everyday and that guided reading books are returned on time, for it is important to keep these in complete sets of six. Please remember that every third week children will not be given a guided reading book as they will be doing guided writing sessions instead.

Please do encourage your children to do a bit of reading every day and as they get more confident they can be allowed to read silently. This is a great year for reading!!

Mathematics

This term, in addition to ongoing number work we will be continuing multiplication through the 2x, 5x and 10x tables and introducing working on and applying other times tables. These could be practised and extended at home. The children will also be weighing objects using the balance scales, creating pictograms and investigating 3D shapes and right angles. They will be continuing to extend their understanding of telling the time. This could also be practised at home on clocks and watches.

Science

This half term the topic is 'Grouping and Changing Materials'. In addition to identifying the properties and uses of materials the children will be investigating how some change when they are heated or frozen. There will also be the opportunity to undertake some cooking. In the second half of term our Science topic will be Variation.

ICT

The main ICT skills we will be focusing on this term are those connected with finding information, including simple, supervised internet searches, the use of CD Roms, databases and branching tree diagrams. We will also be designing a coat for Joseph.

Design & Technology

The children are already excited about sewing a mini 'Technicolour Dream Coat' for Joseph. Any help with sewing would be greatly appreciated. Please see your child's class teacher. We would also be grateful for donations of brightly coloured material, ribbons, sequins or buttons for decorating the coats.

History

In two very exciting History topics the children will be finding out about people and events from the past. The first will be The Great Fire of London and the importance of Samuel Pepys in documenting the tragedy. Work in this area will extend right across the curriculum, including diary writing, dance, role-play and art. After half term there will be a series of mini-topics focusing on famous characters from history, including Vincent Van Gogh.

Art

In the first half of term, we will be creating Fire of London pastel drawings and collage, followed by the designing of Joseph's Coat. After half term, there will be a special focus on the work of Vincent Van Gogh and his contribution to art history.

P.E.

Most of the children's PE will take place indoors this term. Before half term, dance will be based on 'The Great Fire of London' and in gym we will be jumping! After half term we will be improving our skipping skills and Throwing, Catching and Striking. Please continue to make sure your children have their PE kit in school every day.

RE

R.E. will be after half term when the children will be learning about Christian Families, which lead onto a topic about church buildings and our visit to Ely Cathedral.

Music

Whole school singing practices will continue this term and in addition we will learn some songs from 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. As with last term there will also be opportunities for children to learn to play simple beats and rhythms on percussion instruments.

PHSE

This half term we will be focusing on 'Going for Goals'. After half term the children will be undertaking work relating to healthier and safer lifestyles, including issues related to drugs education for young children.

We are looking forward to a happy, productive and inspiring term!

Yours,

Mrs MacArthur

Ms Boyd

Ms Horner