

Fire! Fire! – Autumn 2

What a fantastic start to the year! I am so proud of how well all the children have settled into Tigers class and it is a joy to see how much they are enjoying learning. I am excited to announce our topic for this term is Fire! Fire! Take a look at the exciting activities planned for this term.

Willows Remembers Week

To mark 100 years since the end of World War 1, the children will be learning all about what it was like to be a soldier in World War 1. The children will also look at what conditions were like for those at home. We have lots of activities for the children to develop their understanding from making poppies, reciting poems, singing WW1 songs to writing a letter from a soldier to a loved one at home. Throughout the week we will reflect on the sacrifice that was made and reflect on how important it is to remember and to show respect for those who lost their lives.

Literacy

In Literacy this term we will explore poems, stories and information texts. For Bonfire night we will look at creating our own acrostic firework poems. We begin the term by looking at ZOG by Julia Donaldson. Children will build on their learning from last term by making predictions, asking questions, sequencing key events and changing elements of the story. We will use a range of role play activities, hot seating opportunities and question hands to encourage the children to engage with the story. The children will be introduced to the story mountain template and will have a go at writing a story based on their very own character. As we will learn all about the Great Fire of London this term we will create an information leaflet to demonstrate our learning.

Each literacy session is structured to include a 10 minute focus on developing sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation. As we continue to work on our cursive handwriting we will also enjoy lots of practical sessions where we can continue to develop the formation of letters.

Phonics will continue to take place daily as we begin to go through Phase 5 sounds. In our writing area we have lots of phonics based activities to enhance children's reading and writing when they are working independently.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will continue to develop the skills we introduced last term. We will read and interpret a range of mathematical statements including addition, subtraction and equal signs. To develop the understanding of number we will continue to revise number bonds to 5, 6 and 10, compare and order numbers to 20 and work on counting up and across 100. Our focus this term will be on place value where the children will begin to recognise numbers are made up by tens and ones. Through practical sessions we will investigate and compare different lengths and heights both in standard and non-standard units. Before moving on to look at directional language and focusing on position.

To support and challenge the children, a magical maths area has been set up in the classroom that focuses on number.

RE

We begin the term by thinking about the Church, looking at the important role of the Priest. As we approach advent, we will begin to explore the Christmas Story. We will focus on Mary and think about how the Angel Gabriel chose Mary for a very important role. As we celebrate a special time in the liturgical year the children will also focus on Advent and explore the preparations Catholics make ready for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The children will take an active role in the preparation of liturgies and Advent services that take place this term.

History

Our topic this term focuses on the Great Fire of London. The children will be introduced to the key events of the fire and will work on sequencing and understanding each event. As we look at the living conditions, houses, clothing and trade we will begin to develop an understanding of what London was like before the Great Fire of London. As we compare pictures of London then and now we will begin to recognise how places change dramatically over time. As we explore different historical sources we look at the diary of Samuel Pepys and create our own diary extracts as we role play being in character. As we compare how news reporting has changed and think about the development of technology in reporting the news, we will create and film a news report using the iPads.

Design Technology

In DT we will design and make a 2D sliding picture. We will explore different materials and recognise tools we could use to join different materials together. As we look at a range of products we will discuss their uses and identify the materials they are made out of. We will focus on accuracy in our work as we develop cutting skills, hole punching, paper fastening and using a ruler to measure sides. We will begin to evaluate our work and the work of others to determine how we could improve our product in the future. As part of our topic we will also create a 3D model of Pudding Lane. As we approach the end of the term we will put all the skills we have developed in DT to use as we create a range of Christmas crafts.

Music

The children will continue to work with Miss Mallinson this term and will focus on developing their expressive voices. As music is a lead subject for this topic we will also explore as a class a range of music that is inspired by fireworks and fire. The children will discuss what they enjoy about the music and begin to recognise how music can represent our emotions. We will continue to develop our understanding of rhythm and rhyme. As a class we will also learn to sing London's burning as a round sound.

PE

The children will work on developing their dance in our Tuesday sessions. On a Wednesday afternoon the children will work on their gymnastic skills with Mr Wylde. Both sessions will perfectly complement each other as we work to develop balance, coordination and sequencing with the children.

PE will take place on a Tuesday and a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure all children have their PE kits in school on these days and that they are not wearing any jewellery.

PSHE

Our topic this term is 'Getting on and falling out'. We will focus on friendships and as a class we will discuss the qualities of a good friend. By looking at a range of scenarios the children will role play situations of what a good friend would do. We will work on managing feelings, working together and seeing things from another point of view.

Computing

As we focus on digital research this term, we will be using the internet to find information to aid our learning. We will use key words to create basic searches on pre-selected websites. We will continue to use the skills we developed last term using Microsoft Word to type facts about The Great Fire of London. At the end of term we will use the iPads to create a news report all about The Great Fire of London.

Geography, Science and Art

Although Geography, Science and Art are not our lead subjects for this term we still have a range of lessons that will enhance our geographic, scientific and artists skills. As part of our ongoing Seasonal change topic we will continue to track a tree in the woods and make observations about how it changes through the seasons. As we are in autumn we will be creating some artwork using the leaves that have fallen from the trees.

In Geography we will locate London on the map and explore famous landmarks of the capital city. In Science we will continue to investigate the weather. In Art we will continue to develop our artistic skills. As our topic is Fire Fire we will look at the work of Jackson Pollock and use it to inspire our own firework paintings. We will continue to recognise primary and secondary colours and experiment mixing paint as we recreate the sky scene in the Great fire of London.

Reading

Daphne's diary has been an exciting part of our first term in Tiger's Class and will continue this term. Children's reading books will continue to be checked and changed on a daily basis. Guided Reading will take place every week and will focus on developing the children's language comprehension through asking questions.

We also have a reading garden in Tiger's class this term that is a space where the children can enjoy a range of books and develop their phonics learning further.

Help at home: Please encourage your child to read every night to extend their vocabulary and develop a passion for reading. To help develop comprehension skills, please ask questions to the children about the book that they are reading. This will help them to develop their word recognition alongside their understanding of what they have read.

Children will also be allocated books on Phonics Bug which they can read at their own pace.

Homework

The children will now be set homework, they will get numeracy on a Friday to be returned by the following Friday. The homework should only take about 15 minutes to complete and will always be work that they have already covered in class. There are also maths related games that the children can access on Active learn that are designed to aid their numeracy learning for that week. As discussed at parents evening, I will now begin to send home spellings for the children to complete. Please do keep referring to the tricky words list on the reading information handouts that will encourage your child to recognise words that are not phonetically decodable.

Please do not hesitate to come and see after school should you have any concerns.

Thank you all for your continued support. I am sure you will agree when I say how proud I am of how hard all the children are working!

Kindest Regards

Miss Cross