



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicola Hughes

6th September 2016

Dear Parents,

I hope you've all had a good holiday and the children are excited about coming back to school. There is lots to look forward to this term in our new topic 'The Great Fire', which is part of an overarching school focus on London Life. 350 years ago, after battling the flames for 5 days, Londoners began to see the Great Fire of London die down. This term, the children will be discovering more about the fire and life in Stuart London.

Literacy

In our literacy the children will be studying recounts. We will begin with a story telling unit; recounting the fire's spread, the damage it caused and the measures taken to stop it. The language and structures of the recounts will be used to help write newspaper reports and diary entries in role and we are hoping to finish the unit by recounting a trip to the Museum of London. We will also have a visit to the Wallingford Fire Department where the children will learn about fire safety and then produce information leaflets for younger children on safety around Fireworks Night.

Maths

We begin the year by focusing on the key principles in the number system. Place value of numbers to 5 digits, comparing and ordering numbers, as well as estimation and rounding, will all help provide a solid foundation for the addition and subtraction we do later in the term and be drawn upon throughout the year. The children will also be required to complete Maths homework. Following a unit of work the children will complete 'MyMaths' activities at home as a chance to reinforce concepts covered in class. We will also be having a fortnightly times tables focus. The children will need to log on to trockstars.com, where the children can practise their times tables in order to gain credits to improve their avatar on the website. There will be a times tables test on a Thursday morning where the focus will be on making improvements through the fortnight.

Science

In Science we will be investigating states of matter. The children will be identifying solids, liquids and gases, investigating the boiling points of different materials and learning about evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We will also be touching on the properties of materials and learning about insulators and conductors, in the context of investigating the materials that can be used to protect model houses from fire.

History

We will be putting the reign of the Stuarts in chronological context with time lines. The children will learn about James 1st and Charles 1st as well as the Gun Powder Plot and Civil War, refreshing work covered last year and Wallingford's role. Life in Stuart London will also be



covered as we research reasons for the fire spreading and the lives of some of the characters from Samuel Pepys' diary.

Geography

In Geography the children will compare and contrast maps of London through the ages, identifying changes and the use of land. They will review plans for London after the fire and do some city planning for themselves. They will also learn about the role of the Thames in London's history.

Art and DT

We are very lucky to have the illustrator of our class book, 'The Great Fire of London', visiting us tomorrow to lead a printing workshop. We will also be doing some silhouette art using the Turner painting of the fire as inspiration. We will be using chalk pastels and marbling to explore contrast. The children will also be creating 3D models as part of a computing and DT project to create a class animation of the fire.

PE and Forest School

Our PE sessions will be on Wednesday afternoons in which we will be playing hockey. It is important the children have their kit and they are welcome to leave it on their pegs in school during the week. If children have a gum shield and shin pads they are also welcome to bring them but this is not essential. Forest School will be on a Friday morning. Children can wear their Forest School kit to school but they should also bring their school uniform to change into at lunch. Melanie is planning some excellent activities to support our science and she will also be planning art activities using autumn colours.

Homework

The children will be sent home with a homework diary this year. In it I will keep you abreast of events in school as well as homework that is needed. I have mentioned the websites that the children will need to visit and their login details will be recorded in the diaries for these.

There will be weekly spellings focusing on different spelling patterns and strategies. The week's spellings will be sent home and a short quiz will be held on a Tuesday morning. There will be a limited number of words and prior work on the words will have been completed in class.

There is also a reading homework that I expect the children to complete weekly. It is an opportunity for the children to respond to the reading they have been doing through the week by completing activities such as book reviews, character profiles or fact files linked to what they have been reading. The reading journals should be handed in on a Thursday and will be returned on Friday afternoon.

Any other homework dates will be noted in the diaries. If you have any questions about homework, please speak to me. I have examples of previous work that has been completed for the

activities and am happy to run over any of the Maths activities with children who are finding them tricky during early work or an assembly.

Class Dojo has been set up and the class's monsters are ready for them. I will be sending out information on how you can track your child's progress and support us in promoting good learning behaviour. There is also a new feature that should help us to share work we have been covering as the term goes on.

More information will follow about trips but as you can see it will be a busy term. If you have any questions about the curriculum, or would like to talk to me about anything I should be aware of, please don't hesitate to come and speak to me after school or arrange a meeting through the office. There will also be an opportunity to meet me during our Parent Drop-In session on Wednesday 14th September from 3:00pm – 4:00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chandler