

## Great Fire of London



**Welcome to Year 2!** I hope that you all are safe and well. I hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and would like to welcome your families back to school ready for another exciting school year ahead; I can't wait to get to know the children in Year 2 and share their learning journey with them. I am looking forward to starting this term's topic with the children: 'The Great Fire of London'. A new homework grid has been uploaded to the website and I look forward to seeing the children's creativity flourish.

This term **Coach Chris's Games lessons will be on a Monday afternoon and PE will take place on a Friday morning. Please ensure that children come to school in their kit on these days.** As a reminder, earrings should not to be worn on PE days or your child must remove them themselves. Please ensure children continue to bring a filled, named water bottle to school every day.

**Spellings will continue to be tested fortnightly on a Friday; please practise regularly with your child.** The full list of common exception words alongside other useful home learning resources can be accessed on the website under the 'Classes>Year 2 Home Learning' tab.

Reading books and new diaries will be sent home during the first few weeks of term. Please ensure that children are reading each night. Reading to your child and talking to them about stories and books is also extremely beneficial. Once your child has completed their book, please record comments and sign their reading communication diary. **Reading books can be changed on a Monday or a Thursday.** Therefore, please ensure children's books and diaries are in school and ready to be changed on these days.

Should you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me through my email [shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes, Miss Hulme

**Y2 dates to note this half term – Roald Dahl Day (school based activities – no dressing up), Jeans for Genes Day, individual photographs, dyslexia friendly awareness week, World Mental Health Day, School Council Fundraising Day.**

**English** In English this term, we will be reading a range of quality texts to develop pleasure in reading. After our baseline assessments, we will ensure that children become more secure with their phonics skills and are able to embed these throughout their writing. Through carefully selected texts to support children's wellbeing, we will focus on securing previously learnt spelling, punctuation and grammar features with a focus on sentence structure to ensure skills are accurately used.

**Arts / Design Technology/ Music** During our Great Fire of London topic, children will be learning how to make secondary colours from primary colours and how to change the tone of a colour. Children will learn to build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable by evaluating their ideas. It will provide opportunities for children to select from and use a range of tools, techniques and materials when designing and making. During music, children will become more familiar with the inter-related dimensions of music and experience a range of music from different cultures.

**Religious Education** We will explore stories from different religious traditions and find out about attitudes to the natural world.

**Computing** Our online safety skills will be consolidated and children will begin to explain what coding is. Children will create clear instructions and write a program to control how a character moves.

### History and Geography

During the Autumn Term, we will be travelling back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century to discover what happened during the Great Fire of London. By using a range of artefacts, we are going to be looking at the causes of the fire, how the fire spread, the impact the fire had and how life changed after this historical event. Children will learn how to compare old London to present London, use their enquiry skills to identify the similarities and differences and learn to sequence the main events on a timeline using historical vocabulary and dates to order them.

**Maths** Following baseline assessments, the first part of the term will focus on developing place value skills which will be embedded throughout the curriculum. Children will recognise the place value of each digit in a two digit number and read/ write numbers to at least 100. Children will also demonstrate their ability to identify, represent and estimate using different representations. We will continue to develop and use concrete materials, pictorial methods and abstract methods to support our learning.

**Science / STEM** This term we will be developing an understanding of the uses of everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. By 'working scientifically' children will explore the useful properties of different materials and compare the suitability of different everyday materials for different purposes. They will explore how objects made from some materials can change shape and how the recycling process works.

**PE / Games** We will learn a range of playground games focusing on teamwork, co-ordination and balance. We will develop fundamental movement skills with Coach Chris in Games.

**PSHE** Me and My School: Our PSHE focus allows us to explore issues relevant to the start of the school year including class rules, wellbeing following school closure and school council.

**British Values Focus:** Individual Liberty **Birches Values Focus:** Belief