

Great Fire of London



Welcome back!... I hope that you have all had a lovely half term break and are ready for the exciting weeks ahead. We are so proud of all of the children for settling back into school so well and they have impressed me so much already. We have really enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London; I have uploaded a knowledge organiser in the home learning tab to support your discussions about our topic at home. Our Great Fire of London showcases will take place on: Thursday 5th November and Wednesday 9th December. As a reminder, please can any photos, videos or work completed from the home learning grid be emailed due to protective measures currently in place.

This half term, all children in Year 2 will undertake the National Phonics Screening Check. Please continue to work with your children on the phonics sent home to help embed phonics skills we have been learning in class. **Phonics books are sent home to support your child's phonics learning alongside books allocated on Rapid Phonics.** Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information/ support. **Reading books will continue to be changed on a Monday and/or Thursday.** Please ensure children are reading each night and change their reading book at least once per week. Reading to your child and talking to them about what they have read to develop comprehension skills is also extremely beneficial. Once your child has completed their book, please comment/ sign their diary so we can change their reading book. Lots of children are enjoying using Numbots at home and this is very evident in class. **Please encourage your child to access Numbots throughout the week to consolidate their Maths learning. Access will continue to be monitored.** Thank you for your support with this. **Coach Chris's Games lessons will continue to be on a Monday afternoon and PE will take place on a Friday. Children should come to school in their kit on these days with earrings removed.** Please continue to ensure children continue to bring a filled, named water bottle to school every day.

As always, should you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me through my email shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Best wishes, Miss Hulme

English This half term we will be reading a range of Traditional Tales and explore the features of Traditional Tales. We will explore and develop the structure focusing on genre specific sentence skills. We will enjoy reading alternative versions of traditional tales and use this to write an alternative ending. We will continue to embed our phonics skills from Phase 3, 4 and 5 with written and reading activities. We will improve our comprehension skills by reading a range of quality texts.

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 focusing on pulse and rhythm.

Religious Education Valuing new life – we will engage with religious beliefs and ideas expressed through story, symbol and other visual forms
Computing We will continue to consolidate our online safety skills and continue our learning about Coding using Purple Mash. We will then learn how to navigate around a spreadsheet using a range of tools.

History and Geography

We are continuing to travel back in time to 1666 to discover what happened during the Great Fire of London. We will be learning how life changed after this historical event by comparing old London to present London using historical sources. We will continue to use our enquiry skills to identify the similarities and differences between firefighting techniques and we will consider the impact of this historical event.

Maths We will continue to embed our place value skills and apply these during our addition and subtraction unit. Children will explore mental methods and will recall addition and subtraction facts to 20 and use related facts to 100. By using concrete manipulatives alongside pictorial and abstract representations, we will explore addition and subtraction with up to two two-digit numbers showing that addition of two numbers is commutative. We will use our knowledge of this to find the most efficient way to add three one-digit numbers.

Science / STEM This term we continue to develop an understanding of the uses of everyday materials. By 'working scientifically' children will explore the useful properties of different materials and compare the suitability of different everyday materials for different purposes. We will explore how objects made from some materials can change shape and how the recycling process works. We will investigate the most suitable materials to be used for a purpose.

PE / Games We will use simple movement patterns in Dance showing control, co-ordination and varying level, direction and speed. We will continue developing fundamental movement skills in Games.

PSHE Me and My Relationships: We will focus on how to develop healthy relationships with friends and family and understand that relationships change for different reasons.

British Values Focus: Rule of Law **Birches Values Focus:** Resilience