



HIGHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

31st October 2023

Year 2 Newsletter Autumn 2

Dear Parents,

The second half of the Autumn Term is always very busy and with a fantastic topic, a trip, class assemblies and Christmas celebrations, it promises to be lots of fun too.

Topic

Our topic this half-term is 'The Great Fire of London' and we got off to a great start with our In-day where the children learnt about how the fire started and created some very striking collages of wooden Tudor houses burning in the flames. It was amazing how much the children had learnt by the end of one day!

The topic has a strong historical focus. The children will be learning about the causes, events and consequences of the fire, as well as investigating the life of the diarist Samuel Pepys. They will be looking at how we can find out about the past from a range of sources and evaluating different interpretations of these dramatic events by putting historical characters, including the King's Baker, Thomas Farriner, on trial for causing them. In Design and Technology, we will be building models of the wooden houses which fed the great fire, before re-enacting the fire itself! In RE we will study the importance of St. Paul's Cathedral to the Anglican community in London. Our Science learning will involve understanding how the properties of different materials lend themselves to different uses, and we will also examine the ways in which some diseases spread – and what we, ourselves, can do to control them.

English: writing and phonics

We begin with a unit of poetry, 'Patterns on a Page', which involves the reading, analysing, writing and performing of poems about fire, as well as honing our drama skills through the two class assemblies. Two further units follow: the first is a study of information texts, looking at how they are organised in a way which makes them clear and easy to follow, culminating in creating our own books which present the results of our study of the Great Fire; the second, based around the famous diary of Samuel Pepys, will lead to the children writing their own diary entries in character as eye-witnesses to the Fire. The children will continue to develop their grammatical knowledge, with a focus on the past tense, the use of subordination (because, although, while, until, etc.) and of correct grammatical terminology, such as noun, adjective, verb and adverb. In handwriting, they will continue to progress towards (or, in some cases, perfect) cursive (joined-up) script. In phonics, we will begin a unit titled 'Bridge to spelling' which teaches children how to 'think about spelling'. Over five weeks, the children will complete the alphabetic code and learn the underpinning concepts of spelling

English: reading

Reading in school will continue as before, with each child working either in a guided group or as a whole class at least once a week. Please continue to read at home with your child for at least 20 minutes every day, and to talk to them about their understanding of what they read.

Please could you help your child to have a look in their home library for any books that they may have borrowed from school. We really want to send home books each week in addition to the eCollins website, but our bookcases are looking a little bare at the moment!

Maths

After a focus last half term on securing the children's understanding of number and of how our number system is structured, we are now concentrating on using this understanding to develop the children's calculation skills with addition and subtraction. Later in the half term, we will be exploring money before moving on to multiplication and division. The children will learn how to calculate mathematical statements for multiplication within the multiplication tables and write them using the multiplication (x) and equals (=) signs. They will also begin to solve problems involving multiplication, using materials, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication facts, including problems in contexts.

Other subjects

In indoor PE, we will be focusing on Team Building with the children cooperating and communicating in small groups to solve problems. In outside PE, we will be playing invasion games, learning to support teammates and developing skills of gaining possession, scoring and stopping goals.

The children will continue to have weekly music lessons with Hilla. We are also delighted to have Mandarin lessons back on our timetable which will take place twice a week.

In D&T, we will be making our own Tudor houses. **Please could your child bring in any shoeboxes** that they may have lying around at home. The more the better! Please can **2RB** bring theirs on **Wednesday 8th November** and **2EH** on **Wednesday 22nd November**.

There will be two Forest School sessions for each group, so please make a note of the date and make sure your child comes dressed for an afternoon outdoors, with wellies or suitable shoes in a labelled bag. As ever, please volunteer to join us, if possible. We also really appreciate your donations of instant hot chocolate (that can be made with water) and your help washing up cups and flasks and hanging up the waterproof clothing in the Forest School Cabin. Thank you!

Volunteering

We have plenty of activities happening over the next few weeks that we need to have some support with. In addition to forest school, we have a cookery session and a school trip, all of which require adult support to make them happen. Please see the below sign-up sheets for the dates relevant to your child's class.

2EH:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HOKIyrXZjd5wNOeEGYzpRws4TsFmIqR5mvK1z8IKHa8/edit?usp=sharing>

2RB: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VA6SeaM9gcBWwLGoXADYtL-V4fkAsNLGUKKc3Cj9kgc/edit#gid=0>

Other Important Dates

Friday 10 th Nov	9:30 2EH Assembly
Friday 17 th Nov	9:30 2RB Assembly
Wednesday 22 nd Nov	4pm Parent Consultation
Thursday 23 rd Nov	6pm parent Consultation
Friday 24 th Nov	INSET DAY
Friday 8 th Dec	Walking Tour of Great Fire of London sites including St Pauls
Monday 18 th Dec	Christmas Lunch + Class Christmas parties
Wednesday 20 th Dec	Last day of term - school closes at 1:30pm

We look forward to working together to supporting the children's learning in this exciting half term.

With very best wishes,

Year 2 Team