



SPRING TERM LEARNING LETTER FOR SQUIRRELS CLASS

Main learning themes for the term:

The Great Fire of London

Through writing and drama the children will explore this historical event, looking at diary accounts and images to create skyline paintings of London. Children will compare life in the past for children living in the city and explore how London has changed. They will create clay buildings by studying the architecture from the time of the great fire. In music and dance children will experience what it might have been like to have been on Pudding Lane when the fire started. We will complete our learning by creating our very own newspaper reports and will share a lot of learning in our class assembly!

Exploring India

This topic aims to develop the children's geographical understanding of the world by comparing living in Colehill with the contrasting destination of India. The children will explore and research life in an Indian village and a city in India. They will learn about the culture, religions, homes, transport and food in India. They will also explore similarities and differences for a child living in India with their own experiences living in Colehill. In Science the children will be investigating forces through finding out how vehicles move both on land and water and what affects the distance travelled by a vehicle. In DT the children will be designing their own moving vehicle.

Mathematical links to learning themes:

1. Measures: Children will be taught to estimate, compare and order mass and record their results.
2. Temperature: They will estimate and read temperatures on a thermometer.
3. Picture graphs: Children will be taught to read data on a picture graph, collecting information and representing their own data.
4. Money: Children will develop their understanding of value, recognising symbols, finding different combinations of coins that equal the same amount of money and solve simple problems involving addition and subtraction.
5. Problem solving: Through traditional stories the children will solve simple and complex problems in a practical way.
6. Shape- Recap of 2D and 3D shape, identifying sides, vertices and identifying lines of symmetry.

Key Writing Focuses:

1. Great Fire of London Report: Children will research about the Great fire in 1666 from a wide variety of resources, including the internet and non-fiction books. Children will learn how to write about key events and facts as well as further develop their use of connectives in order to extend their sentences.
2. Great Fire of London Diary Entry: Children will write in-role trying to imagine what the Great Fire was like and the dilemmas and fears of the people who lived in London at the time. They will pay particular attention to emotive language when writing their diary and try to add extra detail and interesting vocabulary.
3. Poetry : The children will be exploring poetry, writing in different forms and exploring rhyming vocabulary. They will also perform a familiar poem.
4. Paddington: : The children will explore London today through the Paddington stories. They will discuss the structure of stories and the particular language that features in this genre. They will have the opportunity to be creative and create their own ending for a story which enables them to plan and evaluate their writing, as well as consolidate all the writing skills learnt so far, including using a wide range of punctuation.

Key ICT Skills:

- Programming and Control.
- Animate a moment in History- Children will be exploring the Great Fire of London through animation.
- Internet research- They will explore what life is like in India.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Links:

- During the first part of the term the children will be learning about the Jewish faith. They will learn about the celebration of Passover.
- After half term, children will further their understanding about Christianity. They will also consider what Christians believe God is like and how this affects the way that Christian people live their lives.
- Children will also be looking at their own dreams and goals this spring and reflecting on the different relationships that people have in their lives.

Possible Home Learning Opportunities (with some adult support):

1. Home reading, sharing a book together and writing book reviews about the story.
2. Practising weekly spellings, looking at the key sounds or suffixes.
3. Practise maths skills through weekly maths home learning and use of times table rock stars.
4. Research about our topics, especially the Great Fire of London and life in India.
5. Family Project (instructions to be sent home) to create their own moving vehicle.

