



Learning Exploration: The Great Fire of London

Children have expanded their geographical knowledge of Barnstaple and Devon in the Autumn Term and are now moving to increasing their knowledge of the history of other significant locations and how it has helped to shape Britain today. Our Spring 1 Learning Exploration introduces us to a pivotal event in British history: The Great Fire of London. This event helps children understand how past events have shaped the present, including advancements in fire safety, urban planning, and community resilience. Through this learning, it is important that children understand that history has an impact on their lives today.

Hook into learning:

Children will receive a letter from Samuel Pepys asking them to find important clues about the event by exploring significant artefacts.

Journey through the exploration

After learning more about our capital city and comparing life in the 17th century to today, we will place the time period on our class timeline and discuss other important events withing this period e.g the Plague.

We will then receive a special letter from Samuel Pepys that had been damaged in the fire. He will ask the children to find clues about the Great Fire of London from artefacts that have been discovered.

We will identify the key factors that led to the Great Fire of London, including the layout of the city, building materials, and the role of Pudding Lane. We will collaborate to sequence the main events of the Great Fire of London in chronological order and understand its duration from 2nd to 6th September 1666.

Using a variety of sources, we will explore and describe how the Great Fire affected the lives of Londoners, including the destruction of homes, businesses, and landmarks like St. Paul's Cathedral.

We will make our own Tudor houses and recreate the fire in the playground, setting a row of houses alight to observe why the first spread so quickly.

Towards the end of the exploration, we will conclude how the Great Fire led to changes in building regulations, city planning, and fire safety, shaping the development of modern London.

Throughout the exploration, we will focus on key historical evidence such as Samuel Pepys' diary, paintings, and maps will help us to learn about how the Great Fire was documented and remembered.



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 2

Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

- Art
- Global Learning
- PSHE links
- PE

The following subjects will also be taught discretely during this half term:

- IT
- RE
- Music
- PSHE
- Science

Maths

Children will explore:

- Money
- Multiplication and Division
- Mastering Number Programme



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

Fiction

Augustus and his Smile by Catherine Rayner

- Purpose: to entertain
- Pupils will use the model text to write their own version of the story about another animal

Non-Fiction

Penguins by Emily Bone

- Purpose: To inform.
- Pupils will use the model text to write their own version of the text about another animal

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

- To write a diary entry documenting the Great Fire of London
- To share conclusions from science investigations



Opportunities to build cultural capital

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At NCSPA, we aim to build cultural capital through experiences such as trips, visitors, music and providing local links.

Options this term may include:

- Visit from Fire Service
- Barnstaple Library
- Drama workshop

Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Children will have the opportunity to address equality, diversity and inclusion through learning about artists from different groups. They will also be learning to value the contributions of other through their learning in PSHE. Pupils will understand the challenges faced by different groups of people through learning about how the Great Fire of London affected people in the UK.



Opportunities for shared outcomes

Children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in one or more of the following:

- Recreating the Great Fire on the playground
- Producing a piece of Art using printing
- Creating a group dance that we will perform to Year 1



Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to your child's class teacher.
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.

