

Spring 2
Year 2



Bright Lights, Big City



Wow a week of our new half term has passed by already! I hope you all had a lovely rest.

The children enjoyed our last topic 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures'. The activities definitely engaged the children in their learning – from reading the book 'Naughty Bus', to experimenting in Science with different materials and of course the highlight was making their own ice-cream!

This half term our topic is 'Bright Lights, Big City'. What do you know about England's capital city? We will be finding out about London's history, transport and famous landmarks.

For Your Information

In Year 2 the **SAT's tests** are still compulsory and these will take place during the month of May. There will be a Maths and Reading test, and the writing is teacher-assessed. We make these tests as informal as possible, and preparations are already underway to ensure your child does the best they can in the tests.

At the parents evening there will be an opportunity to browse helpful practise workbooks for Reading, Maths and Grammar, that you could work through with your child over the Easter holidays and in May before the tests are administered. If you would like to purchase any of these books at a discounted price we will be taking orders at Parents Evening.

Dates For Your Diary

World Book Day (rescheduled)	8.3.18
Parents Evening	7.3.18
Parents Evening	14.3.18
KS1 Reading Meeting	21.3.18
Sport Relief Fund Raising	23.3.18
School Closes	29.3.18

Please make sure you have booked your parents day appointment with your child's class teacher.

Doves class 'Adult to school session' for parents is on Tuesday 27th March 9:00-10:15am – more details will follow

English

Our **English** learning focus for the term will be to write a postcard to a friend pretending that you are in London and describing what you see. This will be based around the story book called Katie in London, which we have already started to read. We will also be writing a non-fiction piece of work describing what happened in the Great Fire of London. Both pieces of writing will give your child the opportunity to use the grammar skills that we have taught, such as using apostrophes, exclamation marks, commas, question marks etc. There will also be a big focus on ensuring children know how to spell the 64 Year 2 'Common Exception Words' in the National Curriculum. Please practise these as often as possible. Reading at home is still very important, especially for Year 2 children who are 'tested' on their reading ability. Please continue to encourage your child to read daily, even if it's just a couple of pages, because this skill is so important. Thank you!

Maths

As **Mathematicians** we have a busy but exciting term! The children will be learning Fractions - recognising $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$'s of shapes and will be learning how to write these fractions, calculating fractions of amounts, and understanding terms such as numerator and denominator. They will also be learning about the properties of shapes by identifying properties of 2d and 3d shapes. It is very important that you also support your children with learning the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times table. This is really easy by using Sumdog, a computer game tailored to your child's ability. All children have been given a user name and password.

Science

As **Scientists** we will be taking a more in-depth look at the materials all around us and learning about which materials are suitable for different things. For example 'Why did the fire of London spread so quickly?' and 'Would it happen now? Why not?' Whilst making bread we will be investigating how materials change under different circumstances and that some changes are irreversible! We will find out how the shapes of solid objects - dough, can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. We will make predictions about our investigations before testing.

Religious Education

In **RE** lessons this half term we will be learning that different religions celebrate different 'Special Days' and we will be focusing on the 'Special Days' this term, such as Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day which both took place in the holidays, Mother's Day (but we will ensure we are sensitive around certain children) and of course the children will be learning about the Easter story.

Topic

As **Artists** we will be sketching pictures of London's iconic landmarks and making silhouette pictures of the Great Fire of London.

In **Design and Technology** we will be using a sliding mechanism to create a 2d moving picture of a black cab/ red London bus/ a boat/ an underground train travelling along in London with the landmarks in the background. They will also be baking bread like Thomas Farriner did in his bakery, but hopefully following safer procedures! A separate letter will come home asking parents to make a Tudor style house from a cereal box, which the children will then use to recreate the famous Pudding Lane.

In **Geography** we will begin our topic by looking at the map of the UK and learning what the 4 countries are that form the UK, and the capital cities of these countries. The children will locate them on a map and use google maps to find London.

As **Historians** we will be learning about The Great Fire of London - a significant event which took place beyond the children's living memory. They will be learning where it started, how it spread and how it ended.