

KS1 Newsletter

The Great Fire of London (Buildings and People)

Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

What we are learning about:

Autumn 2 2026

Our topic/ theme this half term is:

The Great Fire of London

History: In History we will be learning about significant historical events, predominantly focusing on The Great Fire of London and how London changed following this event.

Art: Our art and design drawing unit this half term directly links to our history learning about The Great Fire of London. We will focus on mark making techniques and a range of media e.g. pens, pencils, charcoal, oil pastels and chalk pastels to create a final piece. The final piece will be a detailed drawing of a home on fire, representing the devastation throughout the historical event.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Playing in an Orchestra'. Throughout the unit we will refer to the question 'How Does Music Teach Us About the Past?'. Singing and listening are at the heart of each lesson. Play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B♭, B. We will also be using some music time to rehearse in preparation for our Nativity Performance.

Computing: In Computing we will be introducing the term 'algorithm' which is the concept at the core of coding. We will be learning to break task into smaller steps and creating clear and precise instructions.

P.E: In PE we are exploring dance through movement and music developing our ability to move in time with the beat and rhythm.

PSHE: In PSHE we will be learning from the topics 'Family and Friends' and 'Anti-bullying'.

R.E: In R.E we will build on our learning of Christianity from last half term through the topic 'What can we learn from stories and events in Jesus' life?'. This unit enables us to explore stories and events from Jesus' life and reflect on their significance through art, music and drama.

Science: In Science we will learning about offspring and lifecycles as well as keeping healthy through diet, exercise and hygiene.

English

Reading: This half term we will be working on increasing our fluency when reading. We will also draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand the texts we read, identify and explain the sequence of events in texts, make inferences from the text and predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far.

Writing: Our model text this half term is Vlad and the Great Fire of London. This is a journey story, about a mouse and a flea who are trying to escape the devastating fires around London. We will write about what they heard, saw, felt, and smelt along the way. We will specifically be working on our use of capital letters for the names of characters and places in addition to the beginning of our sentences. We will also work towards securing capital letters and full stops when writing in a paragraph.

Maths: This half term, Monet Class will begin by continuing their learning of addition and subtraction, with a focus on adding and subtracting number bonds using part-whole models and number sentences. We will then move on to learning about shape, where we will be able to recognise and sort 2D and 3D shapes, as well as creating patterns with them.

This half term, Warhol Class will be developing their understanding of place value by recognising, representing and comparing numbers up to 100. We will then move on to exploring shape, identifying and describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths: place value, tens, ones, addition, subtraction, add, take-away, less, subtract, difference, add, plus, more than, increase, total, sum, shape, vertices, sides, pattern, repeating, sorting, 2-D, 3-D, flat, curved, straight, lines

English: grapheme phoneme correspondence (GPC), grapheme, phoneme, digraph, trigraph, blend, segment, capital letters, full stop, exclamation mark, joining words, story map, fiction, non-fiction, narrative, description, adjectives.

Science: plant, seed, tree, flower, root, stem, leaf, bulb, grow, healthy, unhealthy, needs, water, light, temperature

Topic: fire, GFOL, historical event, significant, London, past, present, mark making, sketch, texture, expression, belong, welcome, safe, trusted adult, rules, discussion, login, online safety, relationships, Christianity, God, Bible, Jesus, Church, rhythm, pitch, pulse