



During this term, our theme is:
Why do we remember the Great Fire of London in British history?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	The children are going to read a selection of books and poetry this half term including: 'Grandad's Secret Giant', 'Gorilla' and 'Burglar Bill'. Alongside this, we are going to be focussing on the basic skills relating to sentence structure and punctuation. This will allow the children to develop their knowledge of sentence structure and will ensure that they are well equipped to write accurately across the rest of the year. Towards the end of the half term, the children will be able to showcase their skills and knowledge through writing a non-fiction text.	Encourage your child to read at home. This will be monitored in school using the reading record so please send your child's book in every day. Continue to practise spellings every day. These will be sent home using Marvellous Me.
Maths	This half term we will be doing a lot of work on place value, addition and subtraction. This will enable the children to have the maths skills and number knowledge needed for the rest of Year 2. The children will be focussing on numbers to 100. The children will then apply their knowledge to various problem-solving lessons.	Your child could log on to Numbots and work their way through the levels to enhance their knowledge of number and place value! There will be homework sent home weekly which will be building on what the children have been learning in class.
History	We will be learning about the Great Fire of London and its effect on London. We will learn about where the fire started, when it was, how the fire started, how people tried to put out the fire and how we know about the Great Fire. We shall be learning about Samuel Pepys as a significant person linked to this time in history.	Your child could create a scrapbook page with different information about the Great Fire of London.
Science	We will be studying Living Things and Their Habitats. We will be exploring our school grounds and local area and making our own habitats for the creatures within our school grounds. The children will also learn about world habitats, food chains and the basic needs of living things.	Create a habitat at home for the living things in your home or garden. Create bird feeders or animal food to attract new wildlife to your environment. Carry out a survey of the wildlife you see at home and in your local area.
Computing	The children will be focussing on Digital Literacy in Computing. This will include learning about and discussing how to keep safe online, as well as the children finding their way around the iPads. The children will learn how to take pictures, type, search on a search engine for images and information and accurately find apps on the iPad.	Reinforce the importance of staying safe online at home.



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Religious Education	This half term we will be learning about Hinduism. We will study Hindu core beliefs and look at famous Hindu stories such as Rama and Sita. The children will also be looking at the festival of Diwali.	Share your views honestly and discuss the importance of respecting other beliefs.
Physical Education	This half term the children will be exploring and developing how to control the ball with their hands. The children will work in with a partner or small group to pass, catch and dribble and apply it in activities. Children need to wear a full PE kit (plain white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls) every Tuesday for our PE lessons.	Children could keep active at home by riding a bike or scooter, making an effort to walk to school and having a play in the park. Could they practise PE ball skills too?
Music	The children will listen to and appraise different styles of music. They will sing and play games and learn how to describe different styles. They will be concentrating on pulse, rhythm and pitch.	Ask the children to use YouTube to practise learning the assembly song of the week. Encourage singing in the home.
Art	The children will complete an artist study on the sculptor Sean Henry. The children will then use pipe cleaners, tin foil and Mod Roc to create their own sculpture of a figure. When they are dry they will paint or spray them with a metallic colour.	Look out for different statues and sculptures around and about in Darlington and around the North East.
Relationships Education	This half term we will be learning about what it means to be part of a team. We will be focussing on: What is a team? What teams are children part of? How do we know when people belong to a team? We will also discuss the basic behaviours that are expected according to our three school rules, 'Be safe, be ready, be respectful'.	Promote working as a team at home and discuss how they could work as a team in school to build good relationships.



During this term, our theme is:
Where in the world do I live?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible activities to be done at home
English	The children are going to read a selection of books this half term including 'Anancy and Mr Dry-Bone' and 'Croc and Bird'. There will be a focus on using capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to punctuate sentences. The children will be participating in dictation activities and they will be including expanded noun phrases in their writing. Their writing activities will have the theme of writing a character description and retelling a story.	Encourage your child to read for pleasure at home. Continue to practise spellings every day.
Maths	This half term, we will be continuing work on place value, addition and subtraction. This will enable the children to have the maths skills and number knowledge needed for the rest of Year 2. The children will be focusing on numbers to 100. The children will then apply their knowledge to various problem-solving lessons.	Practise counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. Log on to Numbots and Timetables Rockstars and see if your child can beat their highest score!  
Geography	Our Geography topic is called 'Where in the world do I live?'. We will be locating Darlington on a map, looking at the similarities and differences between Darlington and London, locating the United Kingdom on a map, finding the equator and the North and South Poles, identifying the continents of the world, discussing the differences between a sea and an ocean and finally locating the world's five oceans.	Look at Google maps to locate Darlington, talk to your child about what they have learned and ask them to show you what they know about a world map.
Science	In Science we will be investigating materials and their properties. We will carry out experiments to find the most suitable material for different products and purposes. We will be doing an investigation to find out the best material to use to make an umbrella. The children will learn new vocabulary to describe materials. We will be linking science to our History topic and consider the materials that the houses were built from in London at the time.	Explore the different materials that your child sees every day and talk about why they have been used. Can your child make a product out of a recycled item?
Computing	This half term the children will be focusing on Digital Literacy – Online Bullying & Health, wellbeing & Lifestyle, in Computing. This will include learning about and discussing what bullying is and then moving onto creating a document, adding text and using other features on a document to create a final piece on the iPads.	Allow children opportunities to talk about their work and to create similar art work using devices at home.



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Religious Education	The children will answer the question 'How and why is light important at Christmas?' The children will learn about how light and darkness is important to Christians at Christmas, especially during advent. The children will also discuss candles, tree lights and fairy lights.	Your child could; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> design their own Christmas tree with tree lights. create their own advent calendar and draw a Christmas picture behind each of the 24 days. Encourage conversation about Christmas for Christians and compare to religious festivals for other religions.
Physical Education	This half term the children will focus on ball skills. They will look at skills and techniques such as dribbling, keeping possession, passing and receiving the ball. They will also be participating in team games and learning how to work as a team.	Children could keep active at home by riding a bike or scooter, making an effort to walk to school and having a play in the park. Could they practise PE ball skills too?
Music	The children will listen to and appraise different styles of music. They will sing and play games and learn how to describe different styles. They will also learn to sing Christmas songs accurately.	Ask the children to use YouTube to practise learning the assembly song of the week. Encourage singing in the home.
Design and Technology	This half term's focus is textiles, where the children will design and make prototypes and actual finger puppets. The puppets will be linked to the story 'Handa's Surprise'. They will make South African animals to retell the story.	Children could use materials around the house to create finger and hand puppets of other favourite story characters. Don't forget to plan the design carefully and evaluate it once it's finished.
Relationships Education	The children will continue 'Growing Success in Relationships'. They will discuss which people are special in their lives and how we can show our special people we care.	Encourage your children to talk about the special people in their lives.