



High Beech Church of England Primary School

Mott Street, Loughton, Essex IG10 4AP

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Head Teacher: Mrs. Sarah Roffey

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term in Willow Class. I hope you all enjoyed a restful Christmas break. I would like to start by saying a huge thank you from myself, Mrs Kemp, Mrs Horton, Mrs Friend and Mrs Gould for all the generous gifts and cards given to us at the end of last term.

Below I have outlined what we expect to cover this term, and some useful additional information. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Our theme for this term is 'The Great Fire of London'. Children are already very enthusiastic about this topic and have already used their knowledge to create a timeline of the event and written a diary extract in the style of Samuel Pepys.

In **English** children will be writing in various genres, they have started with diary entries as mentioned above but will also be learning the key features of an eyewitness account, a letter and an information page. Every Wednesday will be a comprehension day in which children will complete comprehensions, learning and developing different reading skills. Daily Phonics and handwriting sessions will continue. Your child will be read with twice a week, once in a 1:1 setting and once in a guided reading session. Please continue to read regularly with your child at home.

In **History** lessons children will be discovering the key factors which led to the fire itself and research what changes were made following the fire, including the introduction of the Fire Brigade and changes to the way houses were built.

Later on they will learn about the deadly plague and the reasons why it spread, how it was managed and what the Great Fire had to do with it ending!

In **Geography** children will be researching the human features of the city of London and compare these to another European city. They will understand the difference between human and physical features and be able to explain what defines a city. .

In **Maths** we will be continuing to work from the Inspire Maths programme. **Year 1** children will continue to learn and use various subtraction strategies such as the part, part whole method, and subtraction by counting on and counting back. They will be applying these strategies to one step word problems. The next unit later in the term will be 'Shapes and Patterns' where children will be identifying and classifying 2D shapes. They will then complete patterns based on one or two attributes. Year 2 children will be starting the term with the 'Using bar models' unit. Children will interpret and represent the part whole concept in addition and subtraction using models either with paper strips, cubes or by drawing bars. Being able to interpret and represent mathematical information using bar models is a key part of the Inspire programme. After this unit children will be starting to interpret the concept of multiplication and division in various ways and use these strategies to solve word problems.

In **Science** we will be learning about humans and animals. They will be able to name the parts of the body and their functions. Children will group animals according to their characteristics. Children will find out what humans and animals need to survive. They will learn about omnivores, herbivores and carnivores and use their knowledge of their respective diets to create a meal! Later on in the unit children will conduct an investigation into a food chain, testing different bird food to see which foods birds like best.

In **R.E** children will be learning about special words and stories, they will consider words and stories that have been important to them personally before learning about the significance of the Bible within the Christian faith. Later in the term children will learn about the 'Guru Granth Sahib', the Sikh holy book and discover how Sikhs show that this is an important book.

In Art and D&T children will be using a range of resources to plan and build a Tudor house for our Great Fire of London display. Therefore, could I make a plea for any appropriate empty boxes to be brought in over the next couple of week please!

In **Computing** children will be working on the unit ' We are Astronauts' in which children will learn what an algorithm is, how they are implemented and use logical reasoning to predict the behavior of simple programs.

P.E lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please bring a full PE kit to school with your child's name written inside (including joggers and sweatshirt as the weather gets colder.)

This term in P.E we will be focusing on mastering basic movements such as running, jumping, throwing and catching. Then we will apply these to a range of activities.

Year 1 will take part in Forest school each Tuesday afternoon and therefore need to bring in suitable clothing and boots.

Homework





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Homework will be given out each **Friday** to be handed in on the **following Wednesday**. Each child will receive **English and Maths homework** that will be focused on what they have been learning that week.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Miss Palmer

Willow Class Teacher