

Chestnuts' Newsletter

Term 1 2026/2027

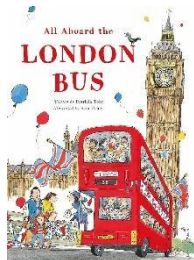
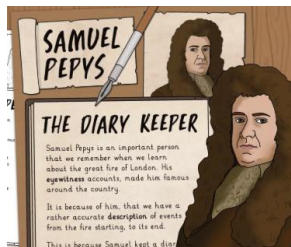
'The Great Fire of London'

Dear Chestnuts' Class Families,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a great Summer holiday.

This term we will be starting our new topic of **The Great Fire of London**. We will begin the term by exploring London and how it has changed throughout history. Our learning will focus on the events of the Great Fire of London, as well as gaining insight into what life was like for people living during this period. We will also learn about important historical figures including Samuel Pepys and explore his accounts of this fascinating time in history.

Some of the key texts we will be using for our learning are:



Questions to ask at home:

- When was the Great Fire of London?
- How is London different today than it was in that time?
- Why did the fire spread so quickly?
- What equipment is inside a fire engine?
- How would you call the fire brigade if you needed them?

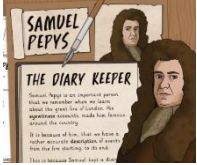
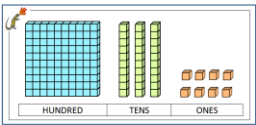
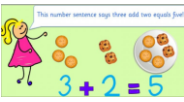
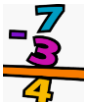
Home Learning Tasks

You could have a go at some of these at home:

- Make some bread or cakes with your family, just like they would have done in the Pudding Lane Bakery.
- Find out about houses in 1666 – what caused them to catch fire so quickly? Were there any other reasons that the fire spread?
- Could you design your own fire engine using your own building materials at home? (lego, junk modelling, building blocks etc.). Take a photo of your creations and let us see how you got on!

The learning map attached to this newsletter outlines the areas we will be learning about and some of the work we will be doing in teacher-focused activities and group work.

Term 1 Learning Map

Literacy 			
Maths 	Number and place 	Addition 	Subtraction 
Science 	Seasonal changes • Observe changes across the four seasons • Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.		
History 	How do we know so much about what happened in the Great Fire of London? • To know and order events surrounding the Fire of London. • To know vocabulary to describe the passing of time. • To know how the Fire of London has impacted on modern life. • To know which sources are reliable.		
Music 	Fire Music • To know about pulse in music and improvise sounds to match an emotion. • To sing with dynamics.		

	To describe music accurately.
ICT 	Programming Beetbots - To create clear instructions to give directions. - To explore commands through digital Bee-Bots. - To program a digital robot using instructions.
PSHE 	Me and my relationships - To discuss actions which contribute positively to the life of the classroom - To use a range of words to describe feelings - To recognise, name and understand how to deal with feelings
DT 	Building structures - To know that structures can be made by joining simple objects. - To know the names of different tools. - To know that materials need to be planned and measured to create accurate structures. - To know that designs are needed to create accurate final products.
RE 	What does it mean to belong to a faith community? <u>Make sense of belief:</u> - Recognise that loving others is important in lots of communities - Say simply what Jesus and one other religious leader taught about loving other people <u>Understand the impact:</u> - Give an account of what happens at a traditional Christian and Jewish or Muslim welcome ceremony, and suggest what the actions and symbols mean - Identify at least two ways people show they love each other and belong to each other when they get married (Christian and/or Jewish and non-religious) <u>Make connections:</u> - Give examples of ways in which people express their identity and belonging within faith communities and other communities, responding

	sensitively to differences • Talk about what they think is good about being in a community, for people in faith communities and for themselves, giving a good reason for their ideas
PE	Attack, Defend, Shoot • Head – Select the most appropriate skill to move forward. • Hand – Can send a variety of different sizes and shaped balls. • Heart – Work with a partner and in small groups to develop specific skills.

Home Learning

Reading	Please read with your child <u>at least three times a week</u>. When reading with your child, please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by <u>recording this on Boom Reader</u>. During reading sessions, please discuss the story with your child and ask them questions about what they are reading. These questions will help to develop their understanding of what they are reading, as comprehension and discussion are key reading skills in Year 1 and 2. Chestnuts are encouraged to change their books regularly, please can you help remind your child when their books need changing. Chestnuts will have a separate 'special' reading book sent home on a Friday in a plastic folder. This will be the book that they have been practising during the week in their group reading sessions. It is good to read this book multiple times at home. They are then using a variety of reading skills including building decoding, reading fluency and comprehension. There is a page at the back of the book to support reading questioning. This folder must come back to school on the following Wednesday to prepare for the next book.
Phonics Year 1	Attached to the newsletter you will find our Weekly Phonics overview- please read through these words with your child at home to supplement the Phonics teaching we will be completing in class.
Maths	When appropriate, children may be given maths sheets or activities to complete at home to consolidate learning that they have done in class. This will be done when required.

Helping to enrich our topics

It is always great to have items that support our **topic**, so if anyone has any items that may help us with any of the work above that we could borrow, we would love to see them. We will have a **topic-based** 'show and tell' weekly on a Friday, see below the slot for your child.

Snacks:

Just a quick reminder that the school does provide a healthy snack each day for the children. However, if you would prefer to send your child in with their own snack, please ensure it is **one healthy snack only** (such as fruit or vegetables).

Useful information and reminders:

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a **water bottle** and their **book bag** each day.
- The children will need a **named coat or sun hat** depending on the weather.
- Our PE days are **Mondays and Fridays** so please send your child into school in their PE on these days. Please ensure this consists of shorts/trousers, t-shirt, jumper and trainers or plimsolls.

We hope you all have lovely term supporting the children in their learning.

Thank you for your support.

Team Chestnuts,

Mrs Adams, Mrs Hale, Mrs Foot and Mrs Wigmore