

PE

Ball skills

We will be developing our hand-eye coordination by playing lots of games involving throwing, catching, rackets, balls and balloons. We will continue to have PE with Mr Butler twice a week.

Science

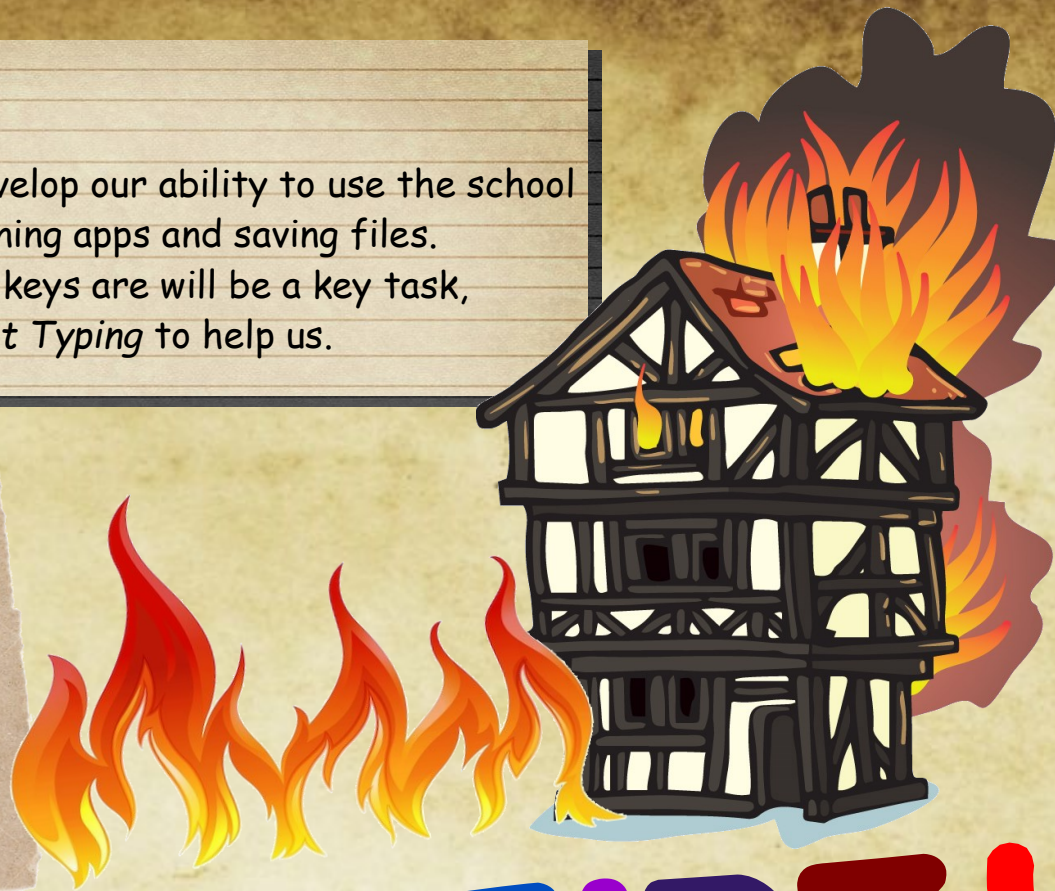
Healthy living

We will be looking at how we can keep ourselves healthy. We will be looking at different food groups we should include in a balanced diet, and investigating how exercise can keep us strong. We will also be looking at the human body and discovering how different parts of the body work and why they are important to us.

Computing

We will continue to develop our ability to use the school laptops, logging in, opening apps and saving files. Learning where all the keys are will be a key task, and we'll use Dance Mat Typing to help us.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



FIRE! FIRE!

DORMICE & HEDGEHOGS - AUTUMN 2025

English

We will begin the half-term by returning to story writing, using *Milo imagines the World*, by Matt de la Peña as our starting point. We will use this text to explore the way that characters and settings are described, and will also be working on the use of conjunctions to link ideas together. After that, we will move on to letter writing, this time using *Meerkat Mail* by Emily Gravett as our core text. We will learn about the way letters are organised and then write some of our own, asking for help and describing our discoveries!

Throughout the term, we will continue to work on sentence construction, ensuring that we use full stops and capital letters correctly.

Humanities

History

We will continue to learn about the Great Fire of London over the next few weeks. We will explore eye-witness accounts of the Great Fire by reading diary entries, so that we can understand what it would have been like to live in London at the time. We will also discover how the City of London fought the fire and the way that the London Fire Brigade has changed over the last 300 years - which should help us to think of lots of questions to ask when we (hopefully) get to interview real-life firefighters later in the term.

RE

We will be focussing on the story of Christmas, finding out why it means so much to Christians around the world.

The Arts

Linked to our history topic and our visit to Stevenage Fire Station, we will be building model fire engines, exploring different ways to build solid structures and learning how to use axles to connect wheels and allow them to turn. Over the next few weeks we will also be rehearsing our Christmas show, combining some fantastic singing, dancing and acting.

Maths

We will begin by focussing on mental addition and subtraction, becoming quicker and more confident in our use of numbers to 100 by building on our knowledge of place value and number bonds. We will then apply these skills to measure and missing number problems.

Later in the term we will move on to working with money, making totals using a variety of different coins and working out change when we are shopping. We will then investigate the language of comparison, using phrases like *difference*, *more*, *less* and *fewer*, before finishing the term by beginning to estimate and measure using different scales.

PE

Keeping fit, happy and healthy is always important. There are links to lots of great resources and workouts to help everyone in the family get active at www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Computing

- Starting to learn where all the keys live on a keyboard is really useful - we'll be using the BBC's Dance Mat Typing in school, and you can practice at home at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3c6tfr

Ideas for supporting learning at home:

Science

- Do a little bit of exercise together and talk about the effect it has on your body - can you feel your heart beating a little faster? Can you feel which parts of your body are getting tired or sweaty? Help your child to understand that these are good things (so long as you don't overdo it) and are a sign that your body is working hard.

FIRE! FIRE!

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The Arts

We're building model fire engines in class, so why not have a go at home as well? You could build something big out of cardboard boxes, something smaller from card and pipe cleaners or something with working wheels from Lego. Encourage your child to make their own decisions about which materials to use and how to join them together.

Maths

- Calculate change using subtraction at the shops - we had £10 when we left home and we've spent £6, so how much should we have left? How much will we need to buy these presents for Nan and Granddad?
- Count down days until Christmas or the holidays - we've just opened door number 5 on the advent calendar, so how many chocolates are left? How many sleeps are there until the Christmas holidays?
- Add up the judges scores on Strictly to work out each couple's score - how far ahead is the leader?
- Use dried pasta, rice or marbles to add groups, make totals or subtract.

English

- Constant practice of reading - and discussion of what's been read - is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Our aim is to turn all our children into fluent readers, so they should be able to read the books they're bringing home with speed, accuracy and confidence.
- We continue to use the Read Write Inc scheme for our daily phonics sessions, and there's guidance on supporting this at home available at: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/
- You can also find advice on supporting spelling at: www.bedwell.herts.sch.uk/learning/spelling_strategies.pdf

Humanities

- Our history topic this term is the Great Fire of London, which provides lots of opportunities for learning beyond the classroom - try investigating the history, building models, drawing, painting pictures or reading about the lives of people who lived through it. There are loads of resources available through the Museum of London site at www.londonmuseum.org.uk/.
- There are also lots of video clips, games and resources on the BBC Bitesize website at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdyhn9q.
- In RE, we will be learning about the Christmas story, so as you start getting the decorations out and thinking about presents, talk together about the stories behind our traditions.