

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

London

Year 2 Spring Term



The Big Idea: *"In London everyone is different, and that means anyone can fit in,"* says everybody's favourite Peruvian, Paddington Bear. In this fascinating topic we will be exploring one of the greatest cities on Planet Earth – London! We will be investigating how this wonderful, diverse city has changed over time, exploring what it looked like, sounded like and smelt like pre-1666 (before the Great Fire of London) and consider how it's changed as a result of this epic fire. We will examine the great Londoners through history and explore how London has been represented through the ages through diaries, films, paintings and songs. Journey with us through time, as we consider how this great metropolis has changed through the ages!

As Language Specialists we will be reading a variety of texts that explore London life through fact and fiction. Texts such as *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, *Madeline in London* by Ludwig Bemelmans and versions of JM Barrie's 1904 novel *Peter Pan* will explore representations of London through time. We will also be studying visions of London through film, with Disney's 1953 version of *Peter Pan* of particular interest. Diary writing of a very different nature will be re-visited when we read selected extracts from Jeff Kinney's 2007 masterpiece *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. In addition, Year 2 will be reading the Paul Perros' poem *The Great Fire of London*, as well as reading Julia Donaldson's wonderful book *The Smartest Giant in Town*. In English, we will continue the theme of diary writing by creating our own diaries from different viewpoints.

As Mathematicians we will be securing our understanding of multiplication and division. We will continuing to look at addition and subtraction through money. We will explore the properties of shapes and learn fractions of shape and number. We will explore tally charts and pictograms by looking at statists. We will begin to learn our times tables and learning 2, 5 and 10 times tables, will be essential.

As Geographers we will be investigating London landmarks, exploring what they look like and how they are represented on maps. We will pay particular interest to the Monument near Pudding Lane and St Paul's Cathedral. We will also be learning about the capital cities of the United Kingdom.

As Historians we will be going into great detail about London's Great Fire of 1666. We will investigate the fascinating life of the famous diarist Samuel Pepys and what London was like 400 years ago. The evolution of the fire engine and fire emergency service will also be of particular interest during this topic.

As Scientists we will be exploring materials and their properties. We will relate our understanding and knowledge of materials to the materials that were used to build London homes and shops in 1666. We will explore what makes specific materials suitable or unsuitable for particular purposes. We will also be creative by thinking of ways to use materials in innovative ways.

Across the curriculum

As Athletes we will participate in small sided games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending. We will develop our agility, balance and coordination individually and with others.

As Theologians we will be asking what it means to belong to a faith community and will be considering why Easter matters to Christians.

As members of our community we will recognise the valuable things in our lives and discuss what we consider to be the definition of valuable: family, friends, treasured possessions?

As Musicians we will be examining some of great nursery rhymes that are about life in London hundreds of years ago. We will also be composing soundscapes to represent the stages of the Great Fire of London.

As Artists we will be focusing on The Great Fire of London, using Tudor houses as inspiration for our artwork. Our main project will be to design, construct and decorate a 3D Tudor house, alongside representing the Great Fire through a variety of mediums and techniques.

As Computer Programmers we will be looking into internet safety as well as exploring information technology beyond our school.

As Design Technologists we will be making 3D models of 17th century houses using recyclable materials.

Knowledge of the World

Why is London our capital city?
Who decided this and for what reasons?

The Arts and Sports

How has the Great Fire been represented in paintings and literature throughout the ages?
How have these things helped us understand those events in 1666?

Enquiry

What other 'disasters' has London and Great Britain had to endure over the last 400 years? How have these events shaped modern life?

Ambition and Possibilities

What could a future London look like? We will take a virtual tour of a possible 'future London', exploring what this great city will be like in the year 3000.