



Dormouse Class Newsletter April 2026 - Term 5

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful Easter holiday. We have been delighted with how fantastically the children have returned to school, full of enthusiasm for our new topics and with a positive attitude to their learning.

Our topic this term is '**The Great Fire of London**'. This project will help children to answer the question: Why was the Great Fire of London a significant event? Children will learn what London was like in the 1600s when the Great Fire of London began. Children will then use a timeline to sequence the main events. They will also learn why the fire spread so quickly and look at historical sources to find out how Londoners fought the fire. In addition, children will learn about Samuel Pepys and listen to extracts from his diary. Finally, they will learn how the Great Fire changed London forever.

In **English** we will link our writing to our topic of 'The Great Fire of London'. We will read a variety of stories and information books about the Great Fire. We will write sentences comparing London at the time of the Fire with London today, write speech bubbles describing how people felt during the fire as well as diary entries. We will have lots of opportunity for drama and role play as we act out scenes to help us think about how people felt at the time.

In **Science** we will be studying Animals. This project teaches children about animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates. They identify and describe their common structures, diets, and how animals should be cared for.

In **Design Technology** we will be cooking! In our topic 'Chop, Slice and Mash' the children about sources of food and the preparatory skills of peeling, tearing, slicing, chopping, mashing and grating. They use this knowledge and techniques to design and make a sandwich according to specific design criteria. We will link this topic to our learning about the Great Fire of London, and after discovering that the fire started in a bakery, we will make our own bread!

In **Maths** we will be looking at measurement where we will use lots of practical activities to develop understanding of time and money. We will begin to look at multiplication and division, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, making groups and arrays and sharing into groups. This will lead into fractions where will learn about halves and quarters, both of shapes and quantities.

In **R.E.** we will be looking at Judaism this term, discussing what is important to Jewish people and learning about their special days.

The children have 2 P.E. lessons a week. This term PE is on **Tuesdays**, when we will learn new tennis skills with our Take Pride coach Mrs Linda, and **Thursdays**, when we will practise Sports Day activities. For health and safety reasons, children wearing earrings will not be able to participate in P.E. lessons, so please ensure earrings are removed on our P.E days. Our Tuesday lesson is in the morning, so pupils attending Forest School will also do PE and must have a PE kit in school.

Diary Dates

- Wednesday 21st April and Thursday 22nd April – Parent Consultations
- Monday 4th May – May Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 5th May – OPAL Stay and Play event for families 14:15-15:15
- Tuesday 19th May – Year 1 Class Assembly
- Phonics Screening Check Parent Information Session
- Friday 22nd May – End of Term

Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Wickham, Mrs Brown and Miss Muzaita