

Fire! Fire! - Year One

Rationale

When we first met, the children expressed a desire to learn about the fire service and fire engines and later, during our topic on the United Kingdom, they showed particular interest in the city of London. We therefore combined these interests by exploring historical events beyond living memory connected to the topic of fire and London.

Creativity	Independence	Aspiration
Children used the factual knowledge they had gained from their research and visit to the local fire station to identify the aspects of fire safety and/or evacuation that they felt were most key and present their chosen facts and guidance in a fire safety leaflet.	Children completed a range of activities that gave them opportunities to choose their own style of presentation including homework tasks linked to our topic.	Visiting the local fire station gave the children an opportunity to see how our topic is relevant to today's workplace and saw job roles related to fire. Children have developed knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe from the dangers of fire.
Spark Children's own interest in fire engines and the fire service.	Learning Celebration Display of children's work and fire safety information at the school open evening.	
Role Playing/Life Skills/Real Learning Fire engine role play; fire station visit; keeping safe whilst enjoying our own fire.	Community Cohesion The children produced and issued leaflets on fire safety and fire evacuations which were handed out to family and friends.	
Out of Classroom Opportunities Visit to Stamford Fire Station. Camp fire: toasted marshmallows and singing.	Home Learning Activity Calligrams: fire related vocabulary.	
<p>Computing and E-safety</p> <p><u>Purple Mash/Microsoft Publisher</u> We began to look at using ICT as a way of presenting our ideas using text and images in our fire safety leaflets.</p> <p><u>Digital camera</u> Children continued to use the class digital camera and created their own images to record completed work and activities taking place, particularly when peers were role playing in the fire engine. We considered the safe and appropriate use of the digital camera, respecting others.</p> <p><u>Research</u> We used the internet to research the role of the fire service using pre-prepared hyperlinks to access appropriate websites to find our information and which provided suitable activities to support our learning and talked about the reasons for the choosing of these websites. Children learned how to maximise and minimise screens to navigate between activities.</p>		

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Links to discrete subjects:

PSHE

As our topic started at the beginning of November, we began by thinking about how we could keep safe on Bonfire Night whilst enjoying the tradition of a fire and fireworks. The children created posters showing firework safety rules.

Later on in our topic, we visited Stamford Fire Station where we watched an animated film about fire safety in the home and how to evacuate safely in the event of a fire. We were also able to speak to the fire officers to further develop our keeping safe skills and to understand how the fire service can help and support us.

History

As part of our safety work around Bonfire Night, we learned about the origins of this tradition: Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot adding to the knowledge already gained about our capital city, London. Keeping the London and Fire theme alight, we then learned about The Great Fire of London and the significant individuals involved, namely Samuel Pepys, Thomas Farriner, Sir Christopher Wren.

English

We made a poster to show our firework safety rules and remembering the exciting element of fireworks, we wrote list poems to develop our use of adjectives. We looked in more detail at the features of non-fiction texts and then we created our own in the form of a leaflet, which children chose to have either a fire safety or fire evacuation focus.

Music

We had discrete singing lessons each Tuesday and used the skills we learned to sing a round called London's Burning.

Steps to success

We started with the world we know and the events we participate in, thinking about why we follow certain traditions, where they originated and how to enjoy them safely. We then added to our growing knowledge of London, by researching The Great Fire of London and understanding how London came to look as it does today. We used historical events to support and extend our understanding of non-fiction texts. We considered the origins and role of the fire service. We then put our safety rules into practice when we had our very own fire at the end of term which we used for toasting marshmallows and keeping warm whilst we sang out Christmas songs.



How will the project be evaluated?

Children's fire safety/evacuation leaflets demonstrated their understanding of the dangers of fire, how to keep safe in their homes and how to evacuate safely.

Children furthered their knowledge of our capital city, London, understanding how many of its buildings and designs came into being following the Great Fire of London and its role in the creation of the fire service we have today.