Happy New School Year to Cuckoo Class.

We have begun our term thinking about the best materials to use when building a safe and sturdy home. This reminded us of a story we knew about three little pigs and a big bad wolf. We will be retelling this in our English work and looking at the story from different points of view. We will be looking at how homes were built in the past using the materials available in the 17th century and designing and building our own houses as part of our Design and Technology lessons. This will help us to discover what London was like at that time and form the backdrop to our learning about The Great Fire of London!

The Great Fire of London was documented by Samuel Pepys in his diary. We will also be learning about the features of diary writing in English and writing our own diary entries based on drama work about life in London at this time. We will illustrate this with silhouette paintings of the London cityscape during the fire. Throughout our learning in English we will be developing key spelling and sentence writing skills, before evaluating the effectiveness of our writing through proof reading and editing. After half term we will be learning more about architects through the text ‘Iggy Peck, Architect’ by Andrea Beaty and writing about our own designs for modern buildings. We will also learn about the rebuilding of St. Paul’s Cathedral. In our guided and individual reading work we will continue to build on the key skills of decoding text and looking at how to build a greater understanding of vocabulary, stories and characters through a range of texts linked to the topic.

In our study of The Great Fire of London, we will learn about London’s place in the United Kingdom and compare life in a modern city to what it was like over three hundred years ago. We will explore properties of materials in science and look at how these have been used in construction. We will use documents and paintings to compare the food that people ate and follow and write recipes. We will bake our own bread and you will be invited to sample our products as part of the Great St. Peter’s Bake Day. As part of this we will also perform the songs we have learned about London.

Our focus in RE is ‘Creation’. We shall be exploring the story of creation from Genesis (the beginning of the ‘big story’ of the Bible) and the concept of stewardship. Some of this learning will be shared during our Harvest Festival service on Monday 7th October.

PE will be on a Monday and Thursday and while the weather is still reasonable, we will sometimes be outside. In PSHE we are learning about the zones of regulation and how to recognise the emotions we feel. In computing we will be developing our keyboard skills through typing and formatting text. We will also be combing text and images to create greetings cards.

Our maths this term will focus on place value, addition and subtraction, and number bonds and shape. There will be a small maths task each week for homework, alongside weekly spelling and daily reading. There is also a homework menu from which your child can choose more topic related activities to do and share with the class.

Finally, we always appreciate help in school, whether it is each week or through attending any of our open learning sessions when the children share their work. I will be catching up with those of you who have offered to help to confirm times next week. If you have any questions about this term’s topic or your child in general, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Mrs Skouros