

# Acorn Curricular Letter

Spring 1 2021 - The Great Fire of London

Dear Parents and Guardians,

May I start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. Although different for us all, I hope you managed to have both a peaceful and happy time over the festive period. I would normally start by saying welcome back after a lovely end of term break and tell you how well the kids have settled back into their school routines. I guess you'll have to be the judge of the latter this time. May I also pass on my sincere thanks for the support that you have given the school during these last few unprecedented months. We have always said that school and parents need to work together, this has certainly been on display over the last few months and we will continue to work together as we navigate through this challenging period. From what I have seen and heard on Zoom, Seesaw and social media, the children are doing absolutely brilliantly, once again, in their role as 'stay at home super heroes'. Not only are they playing their part in this national effort but, they are doing so with great positivity, resilience and superb humour too. Mossy Lea, you continue to wow me with your faultless attitude and perseverance - keep it up! You are doing yourselves, your family and your school proud.

The rest of this letter would normally outline our learning over the next half term and detail what we have in store. This letter is not too different, in that it will outline themes and topics we will be focussing on in our Maths and English Zoom sessions over the next half term, as well as the Seesaw activities set in the afternoons. There are also suggestions and ideas of resources and activities you may want to dip in and out of if you wish. Please refer to the timetable that has been sent out for the structure of online learning and also the Homework Menu for a range of ideas. Over the next half term, please remember, 'If it works for you, it works for me!'

## The Half Term Ahead

**Science**  
Animals  
including  
Humans

**RE**  
Christianity

**History**  
The Great  
Fire of  
London

**PE**  
Fun Fitness  
Zoom with  
Coach Mayers

**Music**  
Linked to  
History

**Computing**

Coding using  
Purple Mash

**Art**  
Linked to  
History  
topic

## TOPIC

This half term we are learning all about the Great Fire of London. We will start by how the great fire started and how it was put out. We will learn the impact the fire had on London and what changes were made as a result. We will finish by looking at a timeline of the events and discovering how we know about the great fire of London. Some of our English, Art work and Music will be linked to this topic.

## LITERACY

In our English Zoom sessions, our work will be linked to The Great Fire of London. We will begin by listening to the story of Sammy the Street Dog and will write our own version of this story. Next, we will be writing our own newspaper reports about the great fire and finally we will be writing a diary entry about the events.

We will continue to look at phonics within the Phonics Zoom sessions. Also, attached to this letter is the list of Year 1 Common Exception Words, Phase 2 to 5 High Frequency Words and Phase 2 to 5 Tricky Words, you could work on learning with your child. Maybe pick five a week a practise at home (at the appropriate stage for your child).

## MATHS

This half term we will continue to work through the Maths curriculum in our daily Zoom lessons. Reception and Year 1 will cover the same topics, however, they will be taught separately to ensure that the content is at appropriate level of understanding.

We will start with **Shapes and Patterns** -the properties of basic 2-D shapes and some solid shapes and will learn to group shapes according to different criteria. This will also lead to recognising, describing and continuing a pattern, as well as generalising patterns. Next is **Length and Height** - this chapter covers the basics of length. Children will compare lengths and describe whether something is taller, longer, shorter or higher. They will learn how to fairly measure two items for comparison using items and body parts, before moving on to measuring using a ruler. After this is **Numbers to 40** (20 for Reception)- counting to 40 (20) in different ways and writing numbers to 40 (20). As the sequence progresses, they are comparing numbers and looking at number patterns. We will finish with **Addition and Subtraction** word problems.

This learning can also be consolidated over the next half term using the activities from the Homework Menu and MyMaths (Year 1). MyMaths automatically sets a deadline when work is set but please ignore these. MyMaths work can be completed at any time irrespective of the deadline set and I will upload more activities as we progress through the half term. In addition, children can use the White Rose Maths Challenges <https://whiterosemaths.com> to consolidate their learning. Children can also continue to practise their number skills on Numbots. There are also some great songs and videos on the BBC bitesize website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/ks1-maths-collection/z6v4scw>

## Zoom and Seesaw



Throughout the next half term, I will continue to use Zoom and Seesaw to teach, set work and mark work. The children used Zoom and Seesaw brilliantly at the beginning of last half term and I'm sure will do so once again. There will be a daily Maths and English Zoom session and foundation work will be set on Seesaw for the afternoon sessions (please see the timetable).

I will check Seesaw daily and respond to any of the children's uploads. Kids, continue to upload your responses to the activities, but also remember to upload anything else you have been up to, I'd love to see how you are keeping busy. If anyone is struggling with Seesaw or to access the work please get in touch and we can sort this out for you. Using [help@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:help@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) (and for any other Log in issues, such as Bug Club etc.)

## Homework

A homework menu has been sent home alongside this curricular letter - a norm for both us and the kids in this very uncertain and unprecedented time that will again help provide a little structure. Look at the homework menu as just that - a menu. A menu for you and your child to peruse and pick what you fancy. As ever, be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce and share your end results on Seesaw.



## Helpful Resources

Here are a collection of resources and links. Again, the idea here was to create a bank of helpful ideas that you may want to use to support and consolidate learning throughout the half term. At this time, there are a huge number of sites, companies and educational organisations releasing educational content and this is far from an exhaustive list but will provide you with support if needed in addition to the Zoom lessons and the activities set on Seesaw.

Phonics Play at <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - The site will once again become free for a period of time whilst the majority of UK primary schools are closed. **username: jan21 password: home**

Purple Mash at <https://www.purplemash.com/login/> - Login using personal login details which can be found on the sticker in your child's Homework Book.

BBC Bitesize at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Oak Academy at <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Robin Hood Learning Projects at <https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/> - This is a great site packed with ideas for learning projects tailored for specific year groups across the foundation subjects.

BP Educational Services at

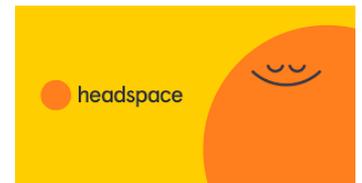
[https://bpes.bp.com/?utm\\_source=NSP&utm\\_medium=PSQM&utm\\_campaign=BP02&utm\\_content=PSQM1](https://bpes.bp.com/?utm_source=NSP&utm_medium=PSQM&utm_campaign=BP02&utm_content=PSQM1) - A brilliant site for STEM challenges and activities you can have a go at home.

Look We're Learning at <https://www.lookwerelearning.com> - Full of ideas ranging from art and craft to designing a timetable. There is a brilliant list of 40 Spring Science ideas here.

Science Sparks at <https://www.science-sparks.com/category/key-stage-2-science/> - Loads of ideas for quick and easy science activities.

David Walliams at <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com> - If you're a fan of David Walliams and his books then take a look here. Packed with activities and ideas linked to his stories.

### Headspace



Headspace is a fantastic resource that I would like to share with you. There are loads of mindful exercises to help sleep, reduce worry and stress, feel positive, and exercises for kids to also cultivate appreciation and kindness. It really is a brilliant resource and one that should be maximised during this time of uncertainty and potential worry. I love it. Give it a try!

I would like to reiterate, what Andy said in his letter; lots of people may be feeling stressed and pressured at the moment, but that is something we want to avoid. If whatever you are doing at home is working for you, then it is working for us. Get logged onto the daily zoom sessions for Maths and English, remember Mr. P's 2pm assembly and have fun completing the afternoon Seesaw activities. Most importantly, stay safe, stay healthy and stay socially distant. I can't wait to see everyone once again!

Additionally, if you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message- I will always do my best to help.

Many thanks,

Mrs Antonella Greenhalgh

# Phase 2 to 5 Tricky Words

## Phase 2

I  
no  
the  
to  
go  
into

## Phase 3

he  
she  
we  
me  
be  
you  
are  
her  
was  
all  
they  
my

## Phase 4

said  
have  
like  
so  
do  
some  
come  
little  
one  
were  
there  
what  
when  
out

## Phase 5

oh  
Mrs  
people  
their  
called  
Mr  
looked  
asked  
could

# Phase 2 to 5 High Frequency Words

## Phase 2

a  
dad  
I  
mum  
big  
it  
at  
on  
up  
back  
if  
but  
of  
into  
and  
his

to  
him  
had  
in  
no  
got  
go  
an  
as  
can  
off  
not  
get  
is  
the

## Phase 3

will  
that  
then  
now  
she  
this  
with  
for  
he  
them  
down  
me  
my  
see

too  
was  
all  
look  
we  
you  
her  
be  
they  
are

## Phase 4

went  
from  
children  
little  
it's  
just  
help  
said  
were  
out  
like  
one  
have  
do

when  
some  
come  
there  
what  
so

## Phase 5

Mr  
looked  
made  
your  
came  
saw  
Mrs  
don't  
asked  
very  
make  
put  
called  
old

by  
their  
oh  
could  
about  
house  
time  
day  
people  
here  
I'm

# Year 1 Common Exception Words

the  
a  
do  
to  
today  
of  
said  
says  
are  
were  
was

is  
his  
has  
I  
you  
your  
they  
be  
he  
me  
she  
we

no  
go  
so  
by  
my  
here  
there  
where  
love  
come  
some

one  
once  
ask  
friend  
school  
put  
push  
pull  
full  
house  
our