The Learning Challenge™
CURRICULUM

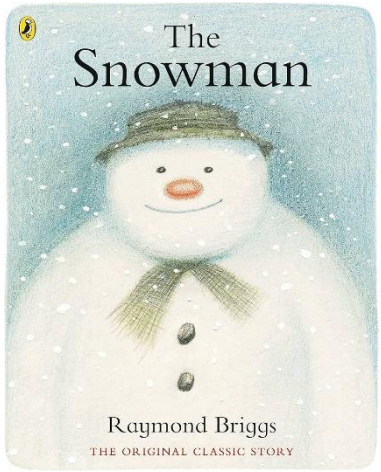
What happened a long time ago in London?

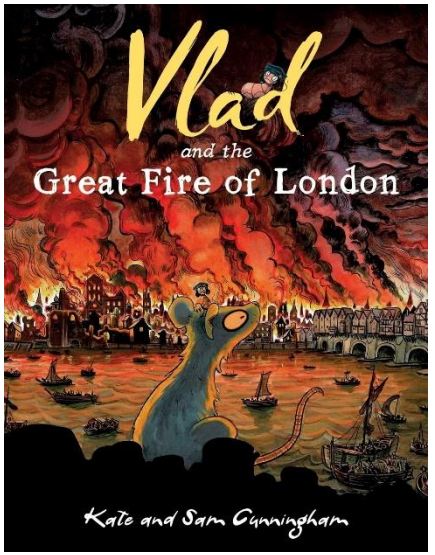


Year 1 and Year 2

Autumn 2

2026





Week 1	When did the Gunpowder Plot happen? In **English,** the Squirrels will be completing some firework inspired creative writing. Hedgehogs will be looking at Firework Poetry and discussing new vocabulary that they will use to write some expanded noun phrases to describe fireworks. The Shrews will be continuing with their unit on grammar (building single clause sentences). In **Maths,** the Shrews and Y2 hedgehogs will be continuing their addition and subtraction unit and they will be adding and subtracting 2 2-digit numbers. Year 1 will be also continuing their addition and subtraction unit working on writing number sentences, looking at fact families and going over number bonds within 10. In **Creative learning,** the children will start our new topic linking to what events happened in London in the past. This week the children will begin to learn about the Gunpowder plot, finding out when and where it happened. Children will look at events identify what other things happened during that century. In **ICT,** children will explore how music makes them feel. The will identify simple differences in pieces of music and describe music using adjectives. In M**usic** this week, the children will begin to learn the songs for their Christmas production. In **PSHE** this week, the children will start their new unit called 'Celebrating differences'. They will identify similarities between people in their class. In **PE** this week, the children will start their seasons dance. This week they will focus on ice dancing.
Week 2	Who was Guy Fawkes and how did he become involved in the Gunpowder Plot? In **English,** the Squirrels will listen to the story Vlad and the Great Fire of London. They will unpick the events in the story and retrieve information out of the book. Hedgehogs will be learning about how to use onomatopoeia and will revisit how to exclamation marks. They will then plan and write their own firework poem and edit and proof read it. The shrews will be continuing with their grammar unit, building single clause sentences. In **Maths,** year 1 will be learning systematic number bonds to 10 and addition. The Shrews and Y2 Hedgehogs will be doing mixed addition and subtraction problems involving adding and subtracting 2 2-digit numbers In **Creative learning,** the children will be learning about who was Guy Fawkes and how he become involved in the Gunpowder Plot. Children will do this by exploring what he might have written in his diary. In **ICT,** the children will identify rhythms and patterns on computers. In M**usic** this week, the children will continue to learn the songs for their Christmas production. In **PSHE** this week, the children will identify differences between people in their class. In **PE** this week, the children will continue their seasons dance. This week they will focus on April showers.
Week 3	Can I retell the events of the Gunpowder Plot?

	This week in **Maths,** year 1 will be continuing their work on addition looking at adding more, addition problems and finding a part. Shrews and Y2 Hedgehogs will be comparing numbers and doing missing number problems. They will also start recognising 2d and 3d shapes. In **English,** the Squirrels class will focus on using full stops and capital letters and look at building *'Who, doing what, where'* sentences. Hedgehogs will be publishing their poem and performing it to the class. They will then start reading Vlad and the Great Fire of London and looking at their model text which is a diary recount. They will look at the features of a diary and some of the new vocabulary in the text. The shrews will be continuing with their unit on grammar. In **Creative Learning,** the children will be re-telling the main events of the gunpowder plot in the form of a time-line. In **PSHE** this week, the children will look at bullying and begin to understand how bullying might feel. As well as this, the children will look at ways to help if someone is being bullied. In **PE** this week, the children will continue their seasons dance. This week they will focus on beside the seaside. In **ICT,** the children will experiment with the pitch of notes to create their own music using ICT. In **Music** this week, the children will continue to learn the songs for their Christmas production.
Week 4	Where and when did the Great Fire of London? In **Maths,** year 1 will learn about subtraction by taking away, crossing out and using a number line. Shrews and Y2 Hedgehogs will continue learning about shapes. They will be counting sides and vertices and drawing 2d shapes. In **English,** Squirrels will discover a snowy scene, following clues to the story 'The Snowman.' The children will listen to the story and learn about inference. They will also unpick the key vocabulary and create their own labelled snow person. Shrews and Hedgehogs will be sequencing and understanding the main events in the diary entry and predicting what might happen the next day. They will also be looking at words ending in -er and -est and using expanded noun phrases. In **Creative Learning,** the children will be learning about the Great Fire of London. They will learn about where it started and when it happened. They will then compare images of life in 1666 compared to nowadays and discuss the differences. In **PSHE** this week, Year 1 and 2 will try to solve problems and learn who to talk to if they were feeling unhappy. In **PE** this week, the children will continue their seasons dance. This week they will focus on beside the seaside. In **ICT,** the children will develop their understanding of music and will use a computer to create and refine musical patterns. In **Music** this week, the children will continue to learn the songs for their Christmas production.
Week 5	What were the events in the Great Fire of London?

	In **Maths** this week, year 1 will start their unit on shape, starting off recognising and naming 3D shapes. This week, the y2 Hedgehogs and Shrews will continue learning about shapes. They will be learning about lines or symmetry and sorting 2d shapes. In **English,** the Squirrels will consolidate their learning on capital letters and full stops. They will practice spelling common exception words and start to build their colourful semantics sentences. Shrews and Hedgehogs will be revising the spellings of common exception words. The Shrews and Hedgehogs will also be learning how to use conjunctions and time adverbials in a diary and start planning their own diary entry while the Year 1 Squirrels will be focusing on writing sentences independently and adding conjunctions. In **Creative Learning,** the children will learn about the events leading up to and of the event. They will use drama to recreate some of the events and order the events in chronological order. The children will also find out how we know about the events by looking at sources. In **PSHE,** this week the children will look at how to make new friends. In **PE,** this week the children will continue their seasons dance. This week they will focus on Harvest. In **ICT,** the children will create a piece of music using an animal as inspiration. Firth they will create a rhythm and then a melody. In **Music** this week, the children will continue to learn the songs for their Christmas production.
Week 6	Why did the fire spread so quickly? This week in **Maths,** year 1 will continue to learn about shape by sorting 2d and 3d shapes while the Y2 Hedgehogs and the Shrews will continue learning about shapes. They will be counting faces, edges and vertices of 3d shapes and sorting them. In **English,** the Squirrels class will write a series of colourful semantics sentences based on The Snowman. To publish their work they will act out the sentences in small groups. Shrews and Hedgehogs will be writing their diary entry and editing and proof reading it. In **Creative Learning** focus will be on **DT** this week. The children will learn why the fire spread so quickly, and why it lasted so long. They will use their DT skills to build their own building from the time. In **PSHE** this week, Year 1 and 2 will be celebrating differences and will be discussing how we all are different and celebrating this. In **PE** this week, the children will perform their seasons dance. In **ICT,** the children will review their work from the previous week and make improvements. In **Music,** the children will continue to learn the songs for their Christmas production.
Week 7	Assessment week

	For **Creative writing** this week, the children will be reading a letter from Santa and they will be writing their own Christmas story in their creative writing books.