



# St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Deputy Head: Ms Zoe Thorn

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of Miss Cole and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year. It has been lovely getting to know your children; they have returned from the Summer break full of enthusiasm.

Our first topic for this term is titled 'London's Burning.' Throughout the coming weeks, your children will look into the fascinating events and legacy of the Great Fire of London in 1666. They will also explore their local area, developing a deeper understanding of its history and significance. Later in the term, our Geography topic will focus on our local environment, with a particular emphasis on local parks. For more detailed information about our curriculum and specific topics, please refer to the attached topic plan.

At St William of York, we are proud to offer a diverse and inclusive curriculum that incorporates many different cultures in a sensitive and understanding way. We believe that this not only enriches your children's educational experience but also raises an appreciation for the world's range of traditions and histories.

Homework is an excellent way for you to stay engaged with your child's learning journey. Starting this Friday, we will be setting homework that includes reading, spelling, TTRS and Mathletics tasks, to be completed by the following Wednesday. This year, your children will be working on fluency in the 2, 5, and 10 times tables, so we encourage you to practice these with them whenever you can.

At St William of York, we are dedicated to encourage a genuine love for reading in your children. While they are still developing their reading skills, it is essential for them to hear stories regularly. Please take time to read to your child every day, in addition to having them read their phonics book to you. It only takes 10 or 15 minutes but can have a huge impact on their attitude towards reading. On Fridays, your child will receive a reading pack containing a phonics book, as well as a picture books for you to read together. Please remember to record what they have read in their reading record.

Our PE lessons are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday but we ask that children bring their PE kits in on a Monday, where it will remain on their peg until Friday, when they will take it home to be washed. To avoid any confusion, please ensure that all school uniforms and PE kit items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Additionally, for safety reasons, please ensure that your child can independently remove their earrings, as jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons.

I would like to introduce you to our dedicated teaching assistant, Miss Cole, who will be supporting your children in class each day. Ms Thorn will also be covering the class on a Thursday afternoon. We are all thrilled to be part of the St William of York family and look forward to helping your children learn and achieve their goals. If you ever have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. You can contact me through the school office or via email at [nogston@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:nogston@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk).

Kind regards,

Nikita Ogston  
Class Teacher  
St William of York

## **English**

This term, we will focus on the Great Fire of London. Students will explore this event through the texts 'The Great Fire of London' and 'The Ride by Nights'. They will write from Samuel Pepys's perspective and create informative texts. We'll work on improving sentence structure, using descriptive phrases, and varying conjunctions. Phonics, including the "Fred Fingers" method, will help with spelling, and we'll cover suffixes like -ing and -ed. Later, we'll read 'Iggy Peck Architect' and 'A Walk in London' to enhance their writing and reading skills.

## **History & Geography**

This half term, we will study the 1666 Great Fire of London. Students will compare 17th-century buildings and fire safety with today's standards, using historical sources like diary entries from Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn. After this, we'll look at modern London landmarks. Students will identify and name locations on maps of the British Isles, recognise landmarks and features from aerial photos, and explore local historical events like the Crystal Palace Great Exhibition and Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins's dinosaur sculptures. To enhance their learning, students will go on two school trips: one to St. Paul's Cathedral for a workshop on the Great Fire of London, and another to Crystal Palace Park to see the dinosaur sculptures.

## **Science**

In Year 2 science, students will explore what animals need to survive. They will learn about the different needs of mammals, birds, fish, and humans, and how each has special features to live well in their environments.

Next, they'll study materials, discovering how they can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting, and stretching. They will also explore which materials are best for various purposes, connecting this knowledge to their design and technology (DT) and history lessons.



## **Year 2**

**Autumn 1: London's Burning!**  
**Autumn 2: Bright Lights, Big City**

**Teacher:**  
**Nikita Ogston**

## **ICT**

In addition to using ICT for other subjects, children will learn specific computing skills, starting with programming. They will use instructions and codes to control different characters, called sprites. We will use Purple Mash in class to follow a structured learning approach, so please take a look at the children's work at home.

## **PE**

Students will have both indoor and outdoor PE sessions to develop physical skills and teamwork. This term, our PE focus will be on basketball and football outdoors, where students will work on skills like dribbling and passing, and fitness and gymnastics indoors, where they'll develop strength, flexibility, and coordination.

## **Maths**

In our maths curriculum, children will start by learning about place value, comparing numbers, number bonds, and patterns. They will practice mental and written methods for simple addition and subtraction, including problems with up to three numbers. They will also begin exploring multiplication and division with numbers 2, 5, and 10. Later in the term, they will study geometry, focusing on identifying and understanding different shapes and their properties. Using concrete materials in class and objects at home will be important to support their learning and help them grasp these concepts effectively.

## **Art & DT**

While studying the Great Fire of London, students will use various materials to sketch scenes of 17th-century London, paying special attention to architectural structures. This work will culminate in a printmaking project where they create their own prints based on their sketches. Later in the term, they will focus on sketching and crafting dinosaur models, taking inspiration from the sculptures of Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins. This will involve both artistic sketching and hands-on model-making.

**RE:** We will start with the theme "Beginnings," focusing on the creation of the world by God. Students will reflect on the importance of small beginnings in their lives, like new days and challenges, and recognize that God is always there to guide them. They will also explore the significance of signs and symbols, particularly in understanding the sacrament of Baptism. As Advent approaches, students will learn about the importance of preparation, drawing inspiration from Mary's preparations for Jesus's birth.

**PSHE:** In Personal, Social, and Health Education, children will learn to listen to and respect others in their community. They will identify individuals who play important, selfless roles, with a special focus on firefighters, which ties into our History topic.