

# Autumn 1 Half Term Bulletin

Welcome to Gowan Class!

This half-term our topic title is... Dear Diary, Through the Flames

What will we learn?



Our hook will be the story and film clips about Samuel Pepys and his diaries about The Plague and The Great Fire of London. We will also be reading the story of The Paperbag Princess, an exciting and dramatic tale which will give us lots of opportunities to talk about, act out and write about fire and its impact on our lives.

As our main subject focus being History, we will explore why the diaries of Samuel Pepys were written and why they are important to us today and what information can we get from them. We will be using resources from the library, other texts and iPads. We will also investigate if the people of London suffered any 'change' because of Samuel Pepys' diaries and how the streets surrounding Pudding Lane lost their homes.



In Science we will explore materials and their properties. Identifying and naming different materials and how they are used. .

Music this term we will be exploring one song, each week will play games and using actions, whilst learning the dimensions of music pulse, rhythm, pitch etc!



## How can parents help?

**Reading** - Please try to read with your child each day and sign their reading record. Daily reading practice will help develop children's decoding and comprehension skills, although it is not expected that they will read a whole book every night. Your child may only read a few pages but will hopefully spend longer discussing their understanding of what they have read in order to progress in developing their comprehension skills. Encourage your child to read a variety of texts on a regular basis, even taking opportunities to note and read texts in their environment such as road signs, leaflets, information posters, newspapers etc. Please feel free to share these experiences in their home reading record and encourage them to share their opinions about the texts they have read.

**Spellings** – These will be sent home each week, to be learnt for a test on the following Friday, try to use the words in day-to-day conversations, starting soon.

**Times Tables** - We will also be testing the children each week on rapid recall of times table facts, children now have access to the Times Tables Rockstars app and also NumBots (same user and password, inside Reading Record), which will allow your child to practice times tables at home, online and compete in learning challenges with other children across the school. The times tables that we focus on are the 2's, 5's and 10's on TTR and number bonds to 20 and above on NumBots.



**PE and Games** - PE / Games lessons will take place twice a week both indoors and outdoors. As the weather is still less predictable our outdoor PE days may change to suit the weather conditions so it will be best if PE kit could be kept in school all week.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mr Moffatt and the Gowan team.