

## Squirrel Class: The Great Fire of London Day

Squirrel Class (Year 1 and 2) had the most incredible and memorable day during our Great Fire of London Day, led by a specialist visitor who truly brought history to life.

From the moment the children met our visitor, they were completely captivated. The hall buzzed with excitement as pupils explored what it might have been like to be a Londoner in 1666. Through immersive storytelling, hands-on activities and expert knowledge, the children were gripped throughout the session - so much so that staff were just as enthralled as the children!

One of the highlights of the morning was building 17th-century London and acting out the dramatic events of the Great Fire itself. The children loved stepping into role and quickly developed a strong understanding of how and why the fire spread. The visitor's authentic costumes, enthusiasm and wealth of historical knowledge made the experience feel real and meaningful.

The carousel of activities was exceptionally well planned and age-appropriate. Pupils handled historical artefacts and explored original archival material from 1666, including plans, maps, letters and eye-witness accounts. As true *history detectives*, the children worked together to solve puzzles and challenges, making links between different sources of evidence and their prior learning.

It was truly wonderful to see the children:

- Asking thoughtful questions
- Making connections between cause and consequence
- Using new vocabulary confidently
- Demonstrating curiosity about how we know about the past

This session was particularly valuable in helping pupils cement and extend their understanding of the Great Fire of London by developing strong evidential enquiry skills. The depth of engagement showed just how powerful high-quality historical experiences can be.

The visitor's hard work, passion and dedication to providing meaningful and memorable learning was crystal clear, and we have no doubt that this day will stay with the children for many years to come. We feel incredibly lucky to have taken part in such a rich and inspiring experience.

## Curriculum Links

This experience supports key areas of the KSI History Curriculum, including:

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality

It also supported pupils' wider development by promoting collaboration, communication, curiosity and respect for the past.

