



# Diptford Diary



Friday 15 September 2017

All your up to date news about our classes!

## NEWS THIS WEEK!



Enjoying outdoor art work

### Dipper News:

This week we have immersed ourselves in our topic of London and the Great Fire. On Monday we visited Diptford and London via Google earth and noticed lots of differences between the two places. It was amazing to see the size of our capital city and the children loved zooming around recognising landmarks that we had learned about. We then learned a little bit about the work that is being carried out on the Elizabeth Tower, where Big Ben is, and how the bell will be silent for some of the time to protect the workers. The children compiled a list of key words to describe London and used these to write sentences.

Our next trip to London had to be in a time machine because we wanted to visit London long ago to see what it was like. We chose September 1666 which was maybe a mistake because we landed during the Great Fire of London! Luckily we were able to help two Londoners put out the fire. Have a look at [fireoflondon.org](http://fireoflondon.org) and click on 'Game' to see what we did. There are some great resources on the site including The Fire of London Minecraft version! The children have sorted pictures of London 'Then' and 'Now' and have begun to produce their own 'Then' and 'Now' drawings and writing.

It has been a great week and I have been very impressed with the childrens' focus and retention of the historical facts. This will be very useful when we go on to bring our knowledge into our writing in the next few weeks.

Thank you so much to the parent helpers who came in during our morning reading sessions. The session ran smoothly and the children really benefitted from the additional help.

**Achiever this week: Henry. W** for amazing knowledge and understanding on the Great Fire of London topic.

### Kingfisher News:

Wow! What a week for Kingfishers.

We have been hard at work, learning all about the life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and different things he designed and made. We were particularly amazed by how long it took to build some of the bridges - one took 8 years!

We have also be learning about different maps and their uses, as well as learning how to give a grid references using our new knowledge of compasses and directions. We even challenged our friends to some tricky direction questions drawing on our maths knowledge of turns, using degrees and anti-clockwise/clockwise.

In art, we have explored 1930's railway posters of places in and around Devon and Cornwall. We then looked at another artist's interpretation of railway posters. Kingfishers have displayed amazing artistic techniques during their artistic skills lessons this week, in particular, their colour mixing and experimenting. We are now preparing to create a final piece of amazing railway poster artwork!

Finally, Kingfishers class have still been soaring with their reading, having read an amazing 346,668 words already! Our next target is 400,000 words!

**Achiever this week: William. S** for his superb colour mixing in art and his good perseverance in all lessons.

### Hawks News:

This week we have travelled back in time to the Victorian era where we found out who Queen Victoria really was. *Did you know her real name wasn't Victoria? Did you know during her reign she ruled a fifth of the countries in the entire world?* The children became experts in different areas of her life and used their research notes to write paragraphs and produce group displays.

In art we created Victorian style silhouettes of ourselves using digital photographs. Can you guess who's who next time you pop in to our classroom?

Alongside developing history skills the children became excellent geographers and used Victorian maps and current day atlases to help create their own creative map of the British Empire in Victorian times. The children were amazed at how many countries Britain ruled over and just how much power and influence we had around the world. They explored how country names and flags had changed over time and discovered why it was once said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire".

They ended the week in role as a Victorian inventor presenting their hugely important inventions to a panel of Victorian judges. Which inventions do the children think are the most useful to us today? What is the most surprising thing invented in the Victorian era? Interestingly Easter eggs, jelly babies and ice cream were all invented by Victorians!

\*Homework & Spellings - Will be set on a Friday and HW will be due in on a Wednesday the following week. Spellings will be tested on a Friday each week.

\*Trip to Dartington date confirmation - Tuesday 26th September (apologies for confusion from Mrs Neil) More volunteers drivers needed, please see Mrs Vickers if you can help.

**Achiever of the week Eddy** - for excellent teamwork whilst creating a detailed and beautifully presented British Empire map



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### Little Dipper & Preschool News

What an exciting and busy week we've had in Little Dippers. Many of the Little Dippers have had a week of 'firsts' and we've been amazed by the courage they have shown. Well done, Boys and Girls!

In Reception, the children have changed into their PE kits for the first time and Mrs Siddons was incredibly impressed with their independence. They got changed so quickly! They have also experienced their first church assembly with Reverend David and they made Mrs French very proud with their listening skills and fabulous behavior. The children also had their first music lesson with the Year 1 and 2 children which was very exciting. It was lovely to see such keen singers and musicians. It was a real treat for Mrs Siddons' ears.

In Pre-school, the children have begun to make new friendships, sharing and taking turns in play and activities. Lots of smiling faces and shared giggle times have been heard and seen this week. They are settling into the routines well, developing those important listening skills that help to keep them safe and able to listen well to Teresa and Paula. They've also been involved in our new self register, making their own 'Little Dipper' bird who lives on their peg. This little bird flies into the nest when they arrive and out of the nest, back to their peg, when they leave. They have quickly grasped and are remembering to do it well.

**Achiever: All of the Little Dippers** for showing super courage and settling into school life really well.

#### **Important dates for the week ahead:**

Tue 19 Sept – Phonics Information meeting for parents.  
Thurs 21 Sept – Accelerated Reader meeting for parents  
FODS – Picnic rescheduled to Fri 22 Sept

#### **Correspondence out this week:**

DATA COLLECTION Sheet to be returned by Fri 22 Sept.  
Central League Football