Outreach Activity Information for Teachers:

Pepys, Pudding and Pox

Suitable for Key Stages 1 & 2

Through an activity session in school children will gain an understanding of how we know about of the Great Fire of London (1666) and the Great Plague (1665) through the diary of Samuel Pepys.

A costumed workshop leader in the role of the great diarist himself uses extracts from Pepys' diary to discuss both of these important 17th century events. The second part of the session is a carousel of hands on activities relating to the topic including: looking at timber framed buildings, writing with quill pens and ink, looking at reproduction maps and documents of the time, handling objects, dressing up and writing in code.

Cross Curriculum Links

**History:** Life of a significant individual in Britain's Past  
**Literacy:** spoken language skills, listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers, ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and build vocabulary and knowledge. Participate actively in collaborative conversations. Use their findings to inform creative writing opportunities.  
**Science:** the science of fire and ingredients needed, fire prevention

Knowledge, Skills & Understanding

This activity covers:
- Chronological understanding  
- Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past  
- Historical interpretation  
- History enquiry  
- Organisation and communication

Learning Outcomes

- Children will be able to:  
- Consider what life was like in the past  
- Gain an understanding of the changes in medicine and hygiene over time  
- Handle old objects from the Museum Loans collection

Thinking Skills

The following thinking skills are also covered:

**Information Processing:** Comparing/contrasting information; Identifying and analysing relationships.  
**Reasoning:** Giving reasons for opinions/actions; Inferring; Making deductions; Using precise language to reason.  
**Enquiry:** Asking questions; Drawing conclusions.  
**Creativity:** Applying imagination.

Key Vocabulary

Fire, Pudding Lane, diary, flour, fuel, wood, straw, heat, tornado, River Thames, plague, buboes, **Cost = £90 per 2-hour session, £160 all day in school**

Please note: his session uses naked flame – please refer to the risk assessment and instructions to teachers provided on booking