

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Join Leo the Lion and Nova the Owl for a spark-tacular celebration of history and science!

- **Bonfire Night is held on 5th November each year to commemorate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, where a group attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament.**
- **The night is traditionally celebrated with large bonfires, which were once used as a signal to show that the government had stayed safe.**
- **Firework displays are a staple of the evening, using controlled explosions to create patterns of light and sound in the night sky.**
- **Nova the Owl reminds us that fireworks rely on combustion, a chemical reaction that releases energy in the form of heat, light, and sound.**
- **Safety is essential; always stand well back from the bonfire and ensure sparklers are held at arm's length by an adult.**

Did you know? Did you know? The vibrant colours in fireworks are created by adding different metal salts to the gunpowder. For example, strontium produces a deep red colour, while copper creates a brilliant blue. It is all down to chemistry!

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder · Parliament · Combustion · Trajectory · Tradition · Atmosphere