

14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome to the autumn term where our topic title is 'Castles'. The curriculum letter will tell you about all the exciting things the children will be learning about this term. If the children have anything they would like to bring into school which relates to any aspect of their learning then please bring it in so it can go on our display.

Come and find out about Years 1 and 2 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6.15pm. This is an opportunity to find out about reading, Talk for Writing, Big Write, spelling, maths and other curriculum areas plus for you to ask any questions.

In the meantime, please come and speak to us if you have any questions or can share any expertise you might have to bring to our topic!

Thank you

Miss Abigail Spain and Mrs Julie Batchelor

<p><b>English - Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Talk for Writing' will feature in our weekly lesson sequence with a mixture of drama, role-play, small world and story-telling. These techniques will ensure children have the skills to orally rehearse their writing.</li> <li>• The focus of writing will include non-fiction texts about castles as well as narrative writing about dragon adventures.</li> <li>• Children will also participate in exciting 'Big Write' sessions that I will be planning in conjunction with Mrs Avis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>English - Phonics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will continue to be supported by focussed daily phonic sessions; this will be reinforced throughout the day.</li> <li>• As children continue to develop their independent writing skills their phonic knowledge is essential to their spelling. Children are encouraged to use the sound and word mats to support themselves.</li> <li>• Please let me know if you are unfamiliar with phonics and wish me to guide you through a supporting sound board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>English - Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will read individually with Mrs Ledger, Mrs Batchelor and my-self.</li> <li>• We aim to listen to your child three times a week and change books are appropriate.</li> <li>• In guided reading sessions we will be starting to identify features of different text types including fiction and non-fiction.</li> <li>• Hence, reading a large range of texts with them will be beneficial. The cereal packet and road signs count!</li> </ul>	<p><b>English - Handwriting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will still have opportunities to develop gross through 'Write Dance' sessions.</li> <li>• Whilst fine motor skills be honed through a range of activities in quiet reading sessions.</li> <li>• At this stage we will be continue to practise simple letter formation. As appropriate children will be taught cursive formation so that they are able to join letters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Topic - Castles</b></p> <p>History is our key focus with art, music and design technology forming part of our topic work. The children are already engaged in learning the features of castles through both our exciting Small World and Role Play areas. They have also drawn their own fabulous depictions of castles and identified questions they would like to answer within our topic.</p> <p>We will be investigating and interpreting the past by observing changes in castles, using pictures. Also we will be exploring time lines of battle events in order to begin understanding chronology. We then will start to communicate historically about concepts such as monarchy, war and peace.</p>	<p><b>Topic - Learning Animals</b></p> <p>Through learning animals we encourage children to develop a range of key skills that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curious Cat (Questioning)</li> <li>• Connecting Spider (linking facts and knowledge)</li> <li>• Imaginative unicorn (being creative)</li> <li>• Busy Bee (working hard)</li> <li>• Determined Tortoise (perseverance)</li> <li>• Changing Chameleon (being adaptable)</li> </ul> <p>These skills will be developed through directed lessons but also by the continuous choosing provision within the room. Constructive self-initiated tasks provide invaluable opportunities for children to practice concepts and secure learning.</p>

<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>In mathematics our lessons will often be practical and their will lots of mental strategy development. Children will continue to explore numbers and the number system as well as space, shape and measure. It is essential the children understand the application for mathematics and cross-curricular links with science will be formed.</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>In science we will be studying materials with Mrs Avis (Thursday afternoons). We will identify different materials within the school environment and sorting data. We will also be starting to describe the physical properties of different everyday materials. We will then look at their suitability for building a castle!</p> <p>Join in and have a hunt at home!</p>
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p> <p>In P.E. children will focus on developing their gymnastic skills with our expert SuperStars instructors. These sessions are on Fridays but PE kit needs to be in school all the time please.</p> <p><b>Welly Walks:</b> We will be taking advantage of Uley's superb grounds and taking weekly local Welly Walks as a key stage on a Monday afternoon. We will be observing the changes in the sessions together.</p>	<p><b>Religious Education/ PSHE</b></p> <p>In PSHE children will be thinking about why they are special and reflecting on their individual qualities.</p> <p>We will be meeting as a key stage to consider the key question 'What does it mean to belong?' and encouraging children to think about how people show they belong and what is special about belonging.</p> <p>Additionally our worship value is Generosity which will be celebrated at the Harvest festival.</p>
<p><b>Homework</b></p> <p>Children are expected to read their books daily, please ensure they are in school each day. They also need to practise any sounds or tricky words placed in their bags as necessary to reinforce learning in class.</p> <p>For numeracy a 100 square is an invaluable (I can provide you with one but they are easily available on line!). Please practise counting, spotting patterns and discuss place value (tens and units). Children also need to know days of weeks and months of the year this can also be reinforced at home daily with a calendar.</p> <p>As a school we wish to develop the whole child and our weekly holistic homework will continue to be provided and celebrated in class. I will continue to provide regular updates on how you can support your child's learning.</p>	
<p><b>Toast Tuesdays</b></p> <p>Toast Tuesdays! The school council run a toast stall on a Tuesday break time for Class 1 and 2 children. Should your child wish to purchase a slice of toast, they will need to bring 10p please - exact change is preferred and hugely helpful.</p>	