



## **Castles and Fantasy Worlds**



Happy New Year and welcome back. We hope you enjoyed the festive period.

Our topic this half term is 'Castles and Fantasy Worlds' and we are busy turning our role-play area into the giant's castle from Jack and the beanstalk.

If you have any questions about anything, please come and speak to us. We are normally available after school or you can make an appointment through Mrs Hudson.

### **School Fund**

To make sure that we can continue to provide a range of practical and craft activities, we appreciate your voluntary contribution of a weekly donation of 50p.

Thank you

### **English**

We will be reading a range of stories including 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Where the Wild Things are'. We will also be looking at non-fiction stories about castles in our history lessons.

#### **Writing**

We will have lots of opportunities for writing for different purposes, including stories, letters and reports. The children will be practising using different punctuation in these, e.g. full stops, question marks and exclamation marks. The children are encouraged to always write neatly, forming their letters correctly and sitting them on a line. They should also think carefully about spellings, using the patterns that they have been practising in class.

#### **Reading**

We have regular story times, where the children are encouraged to discuss what they have heard. They will also be reading their own things and we are working on developing an understanding of what has been read. The Year 2 children will have lots of practise of answering questions about things that they are reading. Year 1 children are working on becoming more fluent and spotting sounds and in words so that they can work them out and on reading tricky words from memory.

### **Maths**

We will continue to cover all aspects of maths this term. The children will have lots of opportunities for applying their maths knowledge to different situations and we encourage the children to explain how they work things out. We will be looking at numbers and comparing them. The children will continue to work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will continue to learn about money, time and other measures.

### Geography

The children will be continuing to develop their knowledge of the United Kingdom and where they live. This will include looking at the location of some important castles. We will also make maps and link this to aerial photographs of castles.

### History

The children will be looking at castles in the past. We will be looking at the importance of castles, finding out about how they have changed over time and learning about what it was like to live in a castle. We will also learn about important kings and queens of England.

### Computing

The children will be continuing to develop their word processing skills, including saving and opening documents, adding pictures and editing work. We will also be looking at graphics programmes and the different effects that can be created with these. We will talk about using the internet safely.

### Art

The children will be looking at pattern and printing techniques. We will use tape, string, wax and wooden blocks to make patterns and prints. We will also look at famous artists that have done this and art from around the world

### DT

The children will have opportunities to make models of castles using different materials. We will investigate how best to make the structures strong and free standing. The children will also learn some basic stitches and will use these to make a simple fabric puppet.

### Science

The children will be learning about 'materials'. We will be looking at how objects are made of different materials and why certain materials have been picked. They will learn about the properties of materials and use the correct words to describe these. There will be opportunities to plan investigations to test materials. For example, which material would be best to make a waterproof coat for a toy. We will also continue to think about how we can stay healthy.

### Music

The children will be learning a range of songs which relate to our topic. They will also learn about changing pitch in music. There will be regular opportunities to use percussion instruments.

### PE

PE days – Wednesday and Friday. Please have a named PE kit in school.  
The children will be working with a sports coach on football skills. They will be taking part in a Hoopstarz session and sports tournament. We will also be learning some gymnastics and dance skills.

### RE

We will be looking at the local church in our first RE topic, before moving onto looking at Lent and Easter.  
Local church – we will be looking at the Bible and covering a range of stories from the Bible.  
Lent and Easter - we will be looking at and learning the stories of Holy week as well as Easter Sunday.

### Reading

Reading at home is one of the most important things that you can do with your child. Please hear your child read at least 3 times a week and sign their reading record.

### Homework and Spelling

Spellings are given out on Mondays and tested the following Monday. The children should practise these several times.  
Homework is given out on Fridays and must be handed back in by Wednesday.