



Castles and ... !



We hope that you have had a fantastic summer holiday and we would like to welcome you back to the new school year. This term, our topic will be called 'Castles and ... !' We will launch the topic by discovering an egg, asking, "**What's inside?**" We want the children to eagerly anticipate the egg hatching and to try and work out what might be inside (so please do not spoil this surprise by mentioning dragons!). However, you may want to take time to discuss with your child which animals actually lay eggs. We are very excited about this topic as there are so many fun things to do and learn. We are lucky to have Bramber Castle on our doorstep, which will also provide us with an opportunity to explore the history of the local area.

To inspire the children and support their learning, we hope to have some special visitors - a reptile expert will visit us to help launch our topic, as well as the author MP Robertson who will teach us how to sketch a perfect dragon and who is our artist study for the term. We also hope to be visited by a princess and a knight. We will also be taking the children to Arundel Castle in October. There will be a voluntary contribution to cover the visit and other visitors for the whole term and further details will be sent shortly. The visit and the visitors will help to provide learning opportunities and hands on experiences for the children.

On the other side of this sheet, you will find a topic web, which shows the main areas of learning the children will experience during the term. We hope that you will find it a useful starting point for supporting your child in their learning and understanding.



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In Mathematics:

- Counting
- Addition and subtraction
- Money problems
- Shape and pattern
- Time



In English:

- Dragon stories
- Taking part in role play castle activities
- Writing descriptions of dragons
- Instructions for how to look after a dragon
- Writing a recount based on the trip to Arundel Castle
- Designing and labelling dragons and castles
- Reading non-fiction books about castles and knights



In Science:

- Looking at different properties of materials
- Bending, twisting, pulling etc.



In Art:

- Pencil skills
- Drawing detailed sketches of dragons
- 3D models of dragons using clay
- Artist study on MP Robertson
- Producing a painting in the style of his work



In Music:

- Discussing a piece of music (music appreciation)
- Singing tunefully and playing instruments
- Listening to a rhythm, clapping it back
- Composing

In Computing:

- Logging on and off the computers independently
- Keyboard and mouse skills
- Online Safety
- Coding and algorithms
- Graphics package



In RE and PSHE:

- Me and my world
- We are all different
- What can I learn from religious stories
- Christmas – why did God give Jesus to the world?
- Christmas activities and Christmas Nativity



In Physical Education:

- Ball skills
- Dance, including dancing like dragons using flags and ribbons
- Beefit

In Technology:

- Planning and making models from recycled materials of dragons and castles, including a winding mechanism

In History:

- Learning about the Monarchy
- Family trees
- Comparing Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Elizabeth I

In Geography:

- Looking at castles around the UK
- Comparing and contrasting castles



Phonics:

The children will be organised into phonic phases across the Key Stage at the beginning of term and phonic groups will start shortly afterwards. You will also receive a weekly homework letter which will show you what letter sounds your child is learning each week, so that you can practise spotting these, for example, finding objects containing these sounds, playing simple games using these sounds, word building, finding these sounds in a book.



Homework:

Once the children are settled back into school, homework will be uploaded onto Google classroom each week and you will also receive a paper copy in your child's homework book. Your child can either complete the work and upload it directly onto Google Classroom, where it will be marked online, or they can return it in their homework book. Homework should be returned by Wednesday of the following week for marking. Homework will consist of:

- Weekly phonics / differentiated spellings / grammar activity (up to 15mins)
- Practice of multiplication tables: 2, 3, 4, 5, 10
- A fortnightly Maths activity (up to 15mins)
- A fortnightly English/topic based activity (up to 20mins)

The homework letter will also keep you informed of what is happening in the classroom and any special events that are taking place.



Spelling Zappers:

Children will receive focus words to learn to spell each week. Please help your child to learn these words at home. We are currently looking into how these spellings are administered and will let you know shortly.

Reading:

There are many opportunities for reading fun and interesting books around this topic, both fiction and non-fiction books, but it does not have to be a book! You can read information about castles on the Internet, search for poems about reptiles etc.

Children will need to bring their book bags to school every day, and you will need to check them for letters when they come home!

Remember to read daily with your child if you can and please remember to write in your child's reading record. Please ensure that these are in your child's book bag as your child's class teacher will also write a comment in the reading record weekly. We really want these books to be a two way dialogue. We will encourage the children to change their reading books regularly at school.



PE:

The children will need a complete and **named** PE kit in school all week which should also include plimsolls or trainers that fit. Hair should be tied back and micropore tape should be provided for children who have pierced ears. We would prefer children to wear a t-shirt that represents their house colour. Until your child's house has been allocated, please supply a plain white t-shirt like last year.

PE days

Kenya – Tuesday and Wednesday

Greece – Tuesday and Wednesday

Australia – Monday and Wednesday



Class Assemblies:

Each class will have one class assembly per year which we would love you to attend.

Kenya – Friday 26th November 2021

Greece – Friday 1st July 2022

Australia – Friday 1st April 2022

