



Cracking Castles!

English

Part of our English work this half term will focus on non-fiction writing. We will be learning key facts about castles and writing an information sheet. We will be focussing on ensuring our spelling is accurate using our spelling hospital and phonics mats. Our story this half term will be an alternative version of 'Rapunzel'. The children will then have the opportunity to become authors and write their own versions of the story. We will be looking for exciting and adventurous language to engage the reader.

Reading - We will be continuing to develop our fluency skills, ensuring we are reading the words we know by sight. We will also be answering numerous questions about the stories we read thinking about the characters, main events and our own opinions.

All the children have been brilliant at bringing their folder in everyday for their phonics and guided reading lessons. So, keep reading in order to build fluency, pace and comprehension. Thank you for your support! 😊

Maths

In maths this term, we will be covering the following...

- Count forwards and backwards in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.
- Recognising simple fractions (halves)
- Counting within 100.
- Learning terms for position and direction.

Other Information

Monday 17th April – Please could we request junk modelling cardboard boxes (cereal box size or smaller) for our castles launch day.

Monday 24th April- Please come in dressed as a King, Queen, Prince or Princess. Party clothes and a homemade crown will be perfect.

Thursday 25th May – Topic exit day – parents will be invited to come in after school on this day to look at our work from this half term.

Our P.E sessions will change this half term and will be on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Please prepare for all weather as we will try and be outside if we can.

Suggestions to help your child at home...

- **Tricky words:** By the end of Year 1 the children will need to be able to read, write and spell a variety of tricky words.

Ways to help your child at home with this include:

- Rainbow writing – how many different colours can you use to write the word?
- Funky writing – can you write the word in different ways e.g. patterns, bubble writing.
- Sand/shaving foam/flour – can you write it into these?
- Word puzzle – cut the letters out and make the words.
- Look, cover, write, check.

Our learning during this unit will include....

Art/DT

In D&T, we will be designing and making a wind up drawbridge for a castle. We will be learning new skills and techniques to be able to do this as well as making our castle aesthetically pleasing for a royal family.

In art, we will be learning about the artist 'Paul Klee' and creating a castle inspired by his artwork. We will also be using our skills learnt this year to design and make shields and crowns for the royal celebration.

Computing – We are Treasure Hunters!

In this unit, the children will program a toy to move around a map to find buried treasure. They will start by thinking of algorithms for their routes then input these as stored programs for the robot. They will predict how the robot will move and will debug their programs.

PE

In PE, we will be continuing our ball sending and receiving skills as well as taking part in a variety of outdoor team games. We will also be developing our dance skills by creating and performing a whole class Tudor style medieval dance.

History

In history, we will be learning about the Coronation, looking at how Portchester Castle was used and who lived and stayed there. We will be comparing this castle to others before considering the importance of Portchester Castle.

Music

We will be listening to the 'Old Castle' piece from Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. We will be exploring a range of sounds using percussion instruments. We will be learning about music symbols and graphic notations.

Science

In science, we will be finding out about growing and the survival of plants. We will be identifying and naming a variety of common, wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. We will also identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants and trees.

PSHE

We will be talking about 'How can we look after one another.' We will be exploring what is an appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

RE

In RE we will be considering the concept of 'specialness'. The children will be thinking about places that are special to themselves and the reasons why. We will then be thinking about how the Church is a special place for Christians. We hope to plan a trip to St Edwards the Confessor that will support our understanding of this concept.