



Year R Curriculum Report – Summer Term A

We are going to use 'Castles' as the stimulus for our learning for the next half term. This will involve exploring castles throughout history and moving on to castles in fiction, including thinking about traditional tales involving knights and dragons.

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development: We will continue to encourage children to play co-operatively, taking turns with others and taking account of one another's ideas about how to organise an activity. Children will become more confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. We will encourage children to talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and explore consequences.

Physical Development: As always, this is a big focus for all of our children. We are continuing to explore forming letters correctly and it would help them considerably if you were to continue practising this at home as well. Alongside this, we will be working on our gross motor development, working on hopping confidently and skipping in time to music. Please continue to encourage your child to dress independently whenever possible, as this will be a major focus to prepare children for next year.

Communication and Language: We will be focusing on "narrative features" this half term, which give texts cohesiveness and structure. These can include story language such as "Once upon a time" as well as language such as "First", "Next" and "Then". We will tell stories, both fiction and non-fiction, including step-by-step instructions. Please continue to support your child's language development by asking them to tell you stories at home.

Literacy: In literacy sessions we will be continuing to develop the children's phonic knowledge through daily group sessions. We are also focusing on reading and writing simple sentences with the regular and irregular words on our teddy cards. Please challenge your child to write you a sentence using one or more of these words. We will also use literacy sessions to reinforce our narrative learning, writing instructions and stories.

Mathematics: This half term, we will be focusing on subtraction. Children will practise being able to say which number is one less than a given number to 20, and using quantities and objects to subtract two single-digit numbers. This will be extended to counting back from a number to find the answer to a calculation. Towards the end of the half term, we will also touch upon problems including doubling, halving and sharing. Shape and measurement will be a continuing topic, with children exploring characteristics of everyday objects and 3-D shapes and using mathematical language to describe them. They will also be encouraged to use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position and distance.

Understanding of the world: We are going to think about Special Places as part of our RE learning this half term, focusing on why castles were special and comparing them to special places of our own. Alongside this, we will be comparing the lives of people who lived in old castles to our own homes, and talking about what has changed. We will also continue to focus on using technology for a range of different purposes, including using the application Draw and Tell on the iPads to record their learning. Forest school sessions will continue – please check the Friday Flier to see which week your child will be taking part – and we would love some more parental volunteers to ensure that every class can try new and exciting activities each week.

Expressive Arts and Design: As always, the children will have a variety of role play areas to explore including a stage, a school and a blacksmith shop. They will be encouraged to safely use and explore a variety of materials and techniques, experimenting with design and form, and include their creations within their role play. We will sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. Children will be encouraged to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, music, dance and stories and use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about purposes.

Home learning challenge:

This half term, our home learning challenges are:

1. Chat: Share stories about your childhood with your children and explore how things are similar or different now. Is there anybody else that you know who could share similar or different stories also? You could share your child's observations on Tapestry if you wish.
2. Play: Allow your child to create a castle using whatever media they wish (junk modelling, lego, or even a picture on the computer). You could support them to design it first and explore the different areas that they will need. Take a photo and put it on tapestry when your child is done!
3. Read: Find different texts with narrative features in to share with your child. Find words that move the next on, such as "Later", "After that" or "Finally" and explore their purpose. These could be stories, recounts, instructions or anything else.



Reminders

Learning Journey

Thank you to the parents who are already contributing to their child's Learning Journey through Tapestry. It would be great for more parents to add their contributions about what your child has learnt at home – this could be cooking, painting, reading or amazing you with their knowledge of the world!

Parent helpers

We have some parents who have been coming in to read regularly with the children, which is a vital skill that they need to practise. However, if you would like to come in and help but would prefer not to read with the children, please still volunteer as we have a huge number of jobs (both with children and 'behind-the-scenes') that we would love you to help with! This includes playing games with the children, preparing resources and joining in with forest school sessions. Thank you to all of those parents who are already giving up some of their time to support the children's learning.

Preparing for all weathers

Your child must have a coat in school every day, even when the weather starts to improve. They go out to play outside every day, even when it's a little damp and raining! As the weather starts to improve, please also send your child in with protection such as a sunhat and put sun-cream on your child in the morning. We also ask that **all items** are named so that we can ensure that they come home with your child.