



Year R Curriculum Report – Summer Term A

We are going to use 'Castles' as the stimulus for our learning for the next half term. Whilst we follow the children's lead in their learning, we plan to use this topic as an opportunity to compare the lives of people in the past to the children's lives now and look at castles in a variety of stories and tales.

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

Personal, social and emotional development: We will be focusing on consolidating our understanding of our feelings and the feelings of others, focusing on ways to be kind to our friends. We will also continue to support the children to regulate their own feelings, with a focus on labelling and describing feelings and what causes them.

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 – please make sure that you use the school script for all letters including the lead-outs at the end. We will continue to work on core-muscle strength, balance and co-ordination through a variety of gross motor activities including PE sessions. The children will also continue to explore the development of their own drawing style, learning to 'look like an artist' and consider colour, shape and lines.

Communication and Language: Our new vocabulary for this half-term will be *ancient, knight, turret, catapult, drawbridge* and *coat of arms*. We will learn the meanings of these words and encourage the children to use them in their play and discussions. We will also continue to explore non-fiction books and, as libraries open, you could visit and do some research on castles or other areas of interest. As always, we will also focus heavily on narratives and story-telling. The children are becoming confident story tellers and we are now encouraging them to add more information and flare to their narratives. As we share stories, we will ask open questions such as "Do you agree with what the character did?" or "Why do you think he felt that way?" to encourage the children to discuss the texts in more detail.

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 tricky words that we know (*I, no, to, go, the, like*) as well as learning the news words *he, she, we, me, be, you, all, are, her, was, they* and *my*. It is vital that the children use their own phonics sounds for sentence writing and don't rely on adults giving them the sounds they need, in order to support them to become independent writers throughout their school lives. One of our big (but currently top secret) hooks into writing will be a visiting dragon and its egg. See if you can encourage your child to make posters and instructions at home to build on their learning at school.

Mathematics: This half term we will be consolidating our awareness of the composition of numbers to 10, and applying this to numbers to 20 and beyond. This will include addition and subtraction facts and how we can solve unfamiliar number problems. We will be focusing heavily on mentally recalling pairs of numbers that add up to 5 and 10, and doubles facts to 10. We will also explore measure such as height, weight, length and capacity.

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, and talking about what has changed. We will also continue to look at the seasons and use maps to find simple locations.

Expressive Arts and Design: Our art project this half term will include using different media to sculpt dragon eyes. This will culminate in a clay dragon eye sculpture. We will also develop our understanding of using ICT to make art, and continue to build on our collage skills from last half term. We will also be learning to country dance.

Home learning challenges

This half term, our home learning challenges are:

Chat: Talk about a place that is special to you and why. Share your memories of that special place, look at photographs if you have them and perhaps even upload a photograph or drawing to Tapestry.

Play: Create or print some finger puppets and role-play being in a castle – which jobs would they have and what would they do and say? Can you use the format ‘Character, Setting, Problem, Solution’ to turn your role-play into a story?

Read: Find a fiction or non-fiction book (or e-book) about castles. Ask your child a question on every page, and see if they can think of a question in return. Did you learn anything from the book? Can you find another linked text that is not a book – for example, a video, a poem or even a picture?



Reminders

Learning Journey

We loved seeing all of the learning at home during lockdown – please know that you are still welcome and encouraged to share anything you do at home on tapestry, even though home schooling is over.

Reading

If anyone is able to help listen to readers (it doesn't have to be every week) for even just half an hour, please let your child's class teacher know. It is so important that children are able to practise these skills regularly and any extra help will make a huge difference to the children. We will be moving into year group bubbles so you may be asked to read with children from all three classes, but will be socially distanced from the children and asked to wear a mask during your visit.

Coats and Jumpers

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! We also ask that coats and jumpers are all named so we can help ensure they come home with your child.