

Our theme this term is...

# Castle Crusaders

As **programmers** we will:

- Use a computer programme to create artwork using a range of tools.
- Create an illustration or a class illustrated e-book .
- Use the internet safely to find images and ideas.

As **scientists** we will:

- Work scientifically to explore light sources.
- Looking at nocturnal animals and learning about how they have adapted.
- Presenting our information in a fact file.
- Investigating how shadows are formed.
- Designing and creating our own shadow puppets.

As **writers** we will:

- Explore a variety of stories linked to our topic such as 'Prince Cinders' and 'Princess Smartypants' by Babette Cole.
- Write in full sentences using appropriate presentation and punctuation.
- Plan and write own version of a story linked to a traditional tale.
- Edit and improve our own writing and give feedback to our peers.

As **historians** we will:

- Consider why castles were built and how they were used as homes as well as a means of protection.
- Explore how castles have developed overtime looking closely at the similarities and differences.
- Learn about who built the first castle and why they did this.

As **mathematicians** we will:

- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to 20.
- Measuring with mass, solving problems and using weighing scales to find and compare weights.
- Beginning to look at multiplication and division. We will be counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and solving problems.

As **artists** we will:

Look at a range of royal portraits and find out what story the person wanted to present through the picture. The children will have the chance to work with a variety of materials to develop their drawing skills. The topic will culminate in the children painting their own portrait.

**RE:** In RE we will be learning about Islam. They will learn about some Muslim beliefs, and begin to understand why Mohammed is important to Islam.

**P.E:** Y1—Netball and basketball, starting with ball skills before progressing to team games.  
EYFS—gymnastics.

**PSHE:** We will be looking at understanding where money comes from and how it may be spent on essentials and luxuries. We will also be thinking about recognising strengths and working with others.

**MUSIC:** In music we will continue to listen to a range of music. We will be performing with our voices and percussion and concentrating on pitch and tempo.

Dear Parents and carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Please do take the time to read our topic web on the other side of this letter. It outlines some of the curriculum objectives that we will be covering in this half term as well as give a brief overview of some of the content your child will be learning. We are looking to plan a trip after half term to Mountfitchet Castle but more details of this will follow at a later date as we are just in the process of organising this.

PE this term will be;

**Gosling EYFS and Gosling/Duckling Y1 Tuesday**— Indoor PE (kit required— shorts, trainers, a t-shirt).

**Wren Tuesday**—Indoor PE (kit required— shorts, trainers, a t-shirt).

**Duckling EYFS Thursday**— Indoor PE (kit required— shorts, trainers, a t-shirt).

Please make sure all kit is labelled. We will also be using our set of Balance Bikes, however children do not require a specific kit for this.

We will be starting our weekly reading open mornings (Reading Café) on **Wednesday 22nd January, at 8.45—9.0am**. Please do come and join us!

If any of you would like to volunteer to help out in class on a regular basis, please do come and talk to us. This does not need to be every week but could be once a fortnight if you have the time and would like to do this. We would always appreciate additional help in the classroom and of course parents who could give the class additional reading would be wonderful!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Rattray, Miss Holland and Miss Ryan