



Year Two
Autumn Term 2 Newsletter
2016

Towers, tunnels and turrets!



This half-term's topic is based around the theme of 'Towers, tunnels and turrets'. The children will learn about daily life in a castle and discover more about the people who lived and worked there. We will also be visiting a real life castle too! Once again, if any of you would like to help in class to hear readers or help in other ways please let me know.

This term's learning...

English

In English we will start by reading a range of non-fiction books or leaflets about local castles or castles around the UK. This will lead to us writing our own report about castles to inform a reader. If you have any books about castles at home then please encourage your children to bring them in and share them with us. After that we will look at writing a recount of our trip to Norwich castle.

Also, in writing we will continue to develop the use of our punctuation and grammar skills. We will be focusing on using co-ordinating and sub-ordinating conjunctions. We will also try and use a variety of different sentence types in our writing including statements, commands, questions and exclamations. Our focus on spellings will continue and please expect a list of spellings to come home every fortnight which the children will be tested on.

Maths

Our mathematical topics will change every two or three weeks as usual. Topics will cover a mixture of practical and written work.

We will be learning about the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes, measuring money and time, fractions and start to learn how to describe positions and directions.

Also, once again a maths skills test will come home every fortnight which the children will be tested on.

Theme

Our theme will have a strong Design and Technology focus this half term although it will encompass other subjects too.

In Design and Technology we will be building model castles using construction and recycled materials. The children will also build a new tower for Rapunzel and we will find out who can make the tallest tower!

In Science we will be learning about materials and habitats through a variety of investigations including building bridges out of biscuits!

In History we shall be comparing castles from different ages. We will also learn about the true story of the World War Two 'Great Escape' to see how they used tunnels. This will link to our work in Geography where we will look closely at world famous tunnels and where they are located.

We will also take a walk around the local community to locate any high points, including towers, chimneys and other tall structures for our Geography work. We will then make a simple sketch map or plan about what we have seen and where we have seen it.

Computing will involve drawing castles using drawing software and taking virtual tours of castles online.

In R.E we shall be focusing on the theme of believing in Christianity.

In PSHE the children will be thinking about the concept of dilemmas and how their actions have consequences.

In Music we will be exploring sounds and beats through the themes of our land and our bodies.

Finally, in P.E we will be taking part in gymnastics by making ball, wall and tall shapes and in dance we will be going on an urban adventure!

Important information

P.E days

P.E will still be on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

P.E kit

T-shirt, shorts and a pair of trainers/plimsolls for gymnastics and dance please. For safety reasons please ensure that **earrings are either removed or covered** and **long hair is tied up** on P.E days.

Reading café

We would like to invite you to our reading café afternoon on Tuesday 8th November. This will give us an opportunity to share a story or text with you and you will be able to join in with some exciting reading activities. Look out for some more information on this soon.

Home learning

Thanks for all your support with the children's home learning last half-term. As last term, children must have their home learning book in school every **Monday**. Please look in the home learning book to find more details of this half-term's challenges based around our topic.

SATs Information Evening

I will be holding a SATs information evening for parents and carers this half term. The SATs are the statutory tests that all children in Year 2 will have to sit in the Summer term 2017. Although this seems very far away at the moment we are constantly working towards these important assessments, so do come along and find out more. I will send out more details closer to the time.

Individual reading books

It was fantastic to see lots of children participating in our Stars in the Jar scheme last half-term. Please keep reading with your children regularly and writing in their orange reading record book. Some children will be using a programme called Accelerated Reader this half-term to help work on their comprehension as well as decoding skills.

Home link books and going home arrangements

Please keep using the home link books to let us know of anything important during the week. We really appreciate it when you keep us informed of any changes in going home arrangements.

Important Year 2 dates this half term:

Wednesday 2nd November: Flu vaccines administered in school
Tuesday 8th November: KS1 reading café 2.15 - 3.15 p.m
Friday 11th November: KS1 castles activity day in school
Wednesday 16th November: Year 2 SATs information evening
Thursday 17th November: Children In Need day
Wednesday 23rd November: Year 2 trip to Norwich Castle
Thursday 15th December: KS1 Christmas concert: details to be confirmed
Friday 16th December: KS1 Christmas concert: details to be confirmed
Tuesday 20th December: Term ends - Merry Christmas!