



St Mary's Catholic First School
Lucetta Lane, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DD
Tel: 01305 262258
Fax: 01305 257101



E-mail: office@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk
Website: www.stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



27th April 2018

Dear Parents



I hope you have all had an enjoyable Easter break and that the children are ready to jump into the Summer term. This term our new topic is Castles, within that we will be exploring the parts of a castle and the life people led whilst living in that era. We will be entering into knight school and undertaking many tests to become a certified knight. We will also be looking at the traditional/fantasy stories surrounding castles, dragons princesses etc.



We will hopefully be going on a trip or two visiting different castles in order to compare them to each other and homes today. A letter with specific information regarding the trips will follow soon.



Attached is the topic web for this half term giving you an idea of the different activities we will be doing and how this helps us with our learning. It also highlights the Literacy and Maths focus for the next few weeks to enable you to support your child at home.

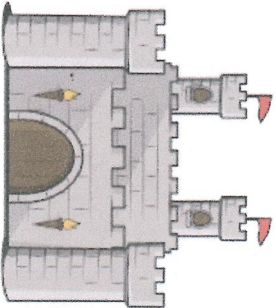
Below is a list of dates for the parent workshops; apologies that a couple of the workshops were cancelled last term due to the snow. To confirm they will be running each week with the focus this term being maths and the Characteristics of Effective Learning. After May half term the focus will be writing and preparation for Year 1. It would be great if you or a relative could make it!

Monday 30th April -2:30 pm
Wednesday 9th May -9:10 am
Tuesday 15th May-2:30 pm
Thursday 24th May-9:10 am

As always if you have any questions or queries about your child please come and see me. I am more than happy to help.

Yours Sincerely

Miss E Libby
Reception Class Teacher

<p><u>Personal, Social & Emotional Development</u></p> <p>We will be learning about the different people that lived in the past within the castle walls and finding out about how their lives differ from ours today. We will be considering whether it was fair to treat people differently based on their background and how things might be different today.</p> <p>The children are going to be looking at the term bullying and learning about how to identify someone being bullied and what we should do about it.</p>	<p><u>Communication and Language</u></p> <p>Our Talk4writing learning will be continuing with us learning a new focus story. The children will then adapt and 'innovate' the story to create their own version. The children shall also be exploring the use of questioning a character such as a knight to find out what life was like living in a castle.</p> <p>We will be developing our personal skills enabling us to tell stories or share projects that keep an audience engaged for a sustained period of time.</p>	<p><u>Physical Development</u></p> <p>The children have been entered into knight school where they will be undertaking a range of challenges teaching them the skills needed to be a knight. These skills include sword fighting (fencing) jousting, target practice, hobby horse riding and medieval dancing.</p> <p>We will also be continuing our development of fine motor control with Funky fingers in the morning. The children will complete an activity each morning that will help them to develop their pencil grip, control and coordination.</p>
<p><u>Maths</u></p> <p>In Maths we will be securing our number knowledge to 20 and applying that knowledge to problems that need solving. Some children will begin counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 whilst others focus on 1:1 correspondence in the teen numbers.</p> <p>The children shall also explore aspects of measure this term such as time, ordinality and shape. The children sometimes find shape a tricky concept particularly when focussing on 3D shapes and their properties so helping at home would be great!</p>	<p><i>Reception Class Topic Web</i></p> <p><i>Summer Term</i></p> <p><i>Castles</i></p> 	<p><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Linked to communication and language the children will be looking at their focus story in talk4writing and making changes to create their own. The aim is that by the end of the term the children will have a completed, mostly independent story linked to our topic. We will also be sharing lots of books in guided reading, story time and in the book area about our topic. We are focussing Heavily this term on set 2 phonics, writing a sentence independently and reading red words such as the, my, was, said.</p>
<p><u>Understanding the World</u></p> <p>Together, we shall be finding out about different communities of people in the past and how their lives differ from us. We will also be finding out about the food they ate, clothes they wore and hobbies they had. We will be developing our understanding of technology using it in a range of ways including making a stop motion film about a dragon and knight.</p> <p>The children will be going on a trip to a castle to make observations of the different parts of a castle and what their purpose was.</p>	<p><u>Characteristics of Effective Learning</u></p> <p>The children have been thinking carefully about the way that they learn and choose to do activities. The children are then beginning to see ways in which they don't often challenge themselves and beginning to explore these learning methods. We will be focussing lots of the Characteristics of Effective Learning and their next steps to help them grow to be strong, resilient and independent learners.</p>	<p><u>Exploring Art & Design</u></p> <p>The children have a range of ways to develop their creativity including making music that symbolises the medieval times, creating their own shields and suits of armour. Using malleable materials to make a dragon for their plan, do, review. The children will be learning to dance to traditional music and move in time to the rhythm. They will also be challenged on a grand scale to build a castle that can fit people inside including all the necessary defence mechanisms! Any cardboard box donations welcome!!</p>