



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and the start of a new decade! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and we welcome you back for the Spring Term.

Our first exciting topic this term to explore with the children is “Castles” with our big enquiry question being a history based one “how do we know about what life was like in the past?” We will look at examples of different castles, explore how castles were made, who lived in them, the myths and stories that surround them and day to day life inside them. We will be looking at a number of non-fiction texts and using them to find out more about castles.

In Literacy we will look at some of the traditional tales that involve castles- Jack and the Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella and use these as a starting point for acting out the stories and our writing opportunities.

Year 1s will continue to join Puffins for a daily phonic session. As part of this they will be exploring alien- made up words - in preparation for the Year 1 phonic check in the summer term. In their English sessions they will be working on joining their handwriting, using capital letters in the right places and using a full stop to show the end of a sentence. They will also explore suffixes and prefixes in - adding un/est/ing to root words and look at how compound words are made up by joining 2 words together.

Our role play area will become a castle for the children to make up their own stories and act out scenes of castle life. They are very much into writing and drawing at the moment and to enhance this we will be making pencils into quills for use in the role play area.

In maths we will be consolidating numbers to 20 and up to 100, recognising 2D and 3D shapes, repeating patterns, weighing different objects and using addition and subtraction to solve simple problems, practically and beginning to record in different ways.

Year 1 children will work on consolidating number bonds to 10, reading the time to the hour (o'clock) and half past the hour, beginning to use standard units when measuring length and weight, Counting in ten's and twos, knowing odd and even numbers, doubling numbers to 10, halving even numbers to 20 and beginning to know what each digit means in a 2-digit number. They will explore problem solving working on one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems.

Our Knowledge and Understanding of the World from a history point of view will involve us exploring the questions what were castles for and who lived in castles in the past? Year 1 children will explore significant features not seen today and how some aspects of life today differ from the

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past using simple historical vocabulary. We will also look at what a Monarch is and find out more about our Queen. Year 1's will create a simple timeline of events in the Queen's life.

As part of our Knowledge and Understanding of The World and Science for the Year 1 children, our topic on Castles will be focusing on the materials used long ago and comparing the same buildings and objects to the present day and the reason for the choices of using such materials. Our on-going focus on seasonal changes will be identifying the characteristics of winter weather and the changes that take place going into Spring. We will be recording the change in temperatures, observing the natural environment, suggesting seasonal changes that may have happened to a tree and how animals keep warm in the winter in order to survive.

We will be continuing to focus on our French vocabulary, including greetings, colours, numbers and learning a selection of French rhymes such as Frere Jacques.

In our Personal, social and emotional development sessions, we will be looking at how we learn in different ways, reaching our goals and recognising and being proud at what we are good at. These sessions are usually carried out in 'circle times', in a quiet and reflective environment.

As part of our expressive art activities we will be using different construction to build castles with- these will include lego, the outside construction and junk modelling materials. If you have any boxes- cereal packets, milk bottle tops, kitchen roll tubes etc that the children can use for this please can you send them in. Thank you.

Our RE focus this half term will be exploring the Jewish festival of Shabbat through our own experiences of a special meal.

In our PE sessions we will use movement to recreate some of our topic based stories through dance. We will also work on games skills though exploring throwing, catching and aiming games. Year 1s will continue to join with Puffins each week for a PE session with our specialist teacher from Perins- Mrs Clayton-Shepherd.

Some children have so far completed their story wings. It would be lovely if we could award a few more badges this term so please continue to explore the different genres of books with your child that are on the table in the front of their reading records and work through the activities with them in their records too.

Please can children have their school reading books in their folders each day. We aim to change their books with them twice a week and change them on a Friday so they have new ones for the weekend.

The children will start visiting the library every Thursday and will be choosing and borrowing a library book for the week. Could your child please bring their library book back each Thursday to exchange for a new one.

At the start of each new term we will send out a Child's views sheet. These form part of each child's Foundation Stage Profile and so we would be very grateful if you could complete them with your child and return them to us.

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As we are involving our children more in planning their learning we would also like to involve parents more in suggesting ideas. We are very keen to build on the children's interests and develop their skills though what they would like to find out about and our first topic session will focus on their suggestions for their learning. If you feel that you have any interesting ideas/artefacts/contacts etc please note below and return it to class.

Thank you to all the parents who have shared their children's experiences at home through Tapestry. The class really enjoyed seeing each other on our interactive whiteboard and it is a great way of sharing things you have been doing at home with us. If for example you go out for the day and have some photos then please upload them to your child's Tapestry journal so we can share them at school too. We will continue to share our weekly Time to talk focus with you through Tapestry which will be linked to our class work that week.

Year 1 children will continue to be given spellings to learn each week, which they will be tested on each Monday. These will be from the Year 1 common exception words and ones in the national curriculum programme of study for Year 1.

Finally as part of a home learning challenge for this half term we would like all children to build a castle at home out of any media they choose- such as lego or other construction, junk materials, snow (if we are lucky enough to get some!) Encourage them to talk about the different parts of a castle they could incorporate into this- using the key vocabulary they have been learning at school- *drawbridge, moat, tower etc*. If you could then either send in the finished article itself, a photograph of it or upload a photo of it onto Tapestry by the last week of this half term (W/C 10th February) we can share their imaginative designs with the rest of the class.

Before Christmas, we asked for parents to provide three 2nd class stamps for each child so that the children can write for a real purpose and audience. Please may we remind parents to kindly send three 2nd class stamps in with your child by the beginning of next week.

If you have any queries about our topic or any other matter then please don't hesitate to ask us.

Many Thanks.

Mrs M Cooke and Mrs S Defferding

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Ideas for topic work- Castles

Name-



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Child's Views

Name _____



In my second half term at school I really enjoyed.....

I have learnt to

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