



Swan Class  
September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! This term our topic is 'Castles'. This theme will filter through many of our lessons as part of a creative curriculum devised to capture the children's imagination and to inspire their learning.

This term we will be learning to...

### **English**

form letters clearly using correct pencil grip and begin to join  
write simple sentences demarcated with capital letters and full stops  
use varied, appropriate vocabulary (selecting from wordbanks)  
use a variety of decoding strategies to read aloud with expression, taking account of simple punctuation  
identify and talk about the main events of a story  
begin to make predictions  
talk about the differences between fiction and non-fiction  
say the letters of the alphabet in order and begin to use alphabetically ordered texts  
follow, say and write simple instructions

### **Maths**

count to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number.  
count in steps of 1, 2, 5 and 10.  
put numbers in order and position them on a number line  
identify one more and one less than a given number.  
read and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs  
recognise and use language relating to dates, including days of the week, weeks, months and years.  
read and write numbers from 1 to 20 in numerals and words.  
name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes  
compare, estimate and measure length.  
recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.

### **Science**

identify and name a variety of everyday materials  
sort materials according to their properties  
make predictions and offer simple explanations when carrying out investigations  
record observations in simple charts and tables

## **Music**

explore different instruments, recognising if a sound is high-pitched or low-pitched.  
play tuned and untuned instruments in different ways to represent different emotions or feelings.

use voices expressively and creatively by speaking chants.

respond artistically to different music.

## **P.E.**

improve basic football and rugby skills (controlling a ball and kicking with appropriate power).

build an awareness of the space around us.

develop an understanding of the importance of working as part of a team.

develop gross-motor control.

## **RE**

consider the question "Is everybody special?" - explore how and why people choose to belong to groups and religions

know about baptism

## **Art and Design Technology**

know about the processes involved in pottery and create our own clay castle

sketch and paint portraits

use paper layering techniques to create 3D objects

## **PSHE**

understand the importance of rules and working cooperatively in order to create a happy working environment.

understand how to develop strategies to deal with personal problems or worries at school in order that we keep safe.

understand the potential dangers in the home, around home and around school and how to keep safe from these dangers.

## **Computing**

use computers and mobile devices safely when accessing the internet.

- e-safety discussions will cover keeping our personal details secret and also defining cyber-bullying.

use iPads to enhance learning in many curriculum areas.

explore the use of augmented reality to add interactive media to class displays.

## **History**

identify and use information sources to find out about castles

know about the history of Windsor Castle

## **Geography**

explore aerial views of everyday objects

use aerial photos to locate landmarks

draw simple maps

## **Reading**

Your support with daily reading and discussion of texts at home really helps your children to progress in reading. Having read with your child please make a brief, positive comment in the reading record booklet.

## **Spelling stars**

New spelling lists of high frequency words for this term were issued last week. Please help your child to learn to spell these, checking on a weekly basis to ensure consistent accuracy. Why not encourage them to write the words in sentences or search for them in their reading books? A test will take place in school later in the term.

## **Maths**

In each classroom the special charts showing times tables the children are learning are displayed. We begin with counting in steps of 2, 5, and 10 and progress to reciting tables and answering questions that are not in order. Regular practice at home will have an enormous impact.

## **Homework**

Alongside daily reading, Key Stage One children will be set additional homework tasks each Friday, including a phonics activity which consolidates work covered in groups during the week. A short maths and English activity which supports the work covered in class over the week will usually be set too. We will be teaching the children to form their letters cursively in order to help them to achieve joined-up handwriting early in their writing. A document detailing the way letters are formed will be distributed at your 'Meet the Teacher' session to help you to support the children to write cursively at home.

## **P.E.**

We will have our P.E. lessons on Thursday and Friday morning this term. On these days, please send your child to school wearing their kit, with their school uniform in a bag, ensuring that everything is clearly named. The school website has details of indoor and outdoor kit, both of which will be required this term.

Please ensure your child always has a named water bottle in school.

If you wish to talk to me at any time about specific matters, please catch me after school on the playground or arrange a meeting through the office.

Thank you for your support.  
Diana Nicol