

8th June 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back for our final half term this academic year. Hopefully the sunny weather will return and it is good to see so many children wearing their summer uniform. At this time of year it is particularly important that the children remember to bring their water bottles into school, and wear sunhats and suntan cream when necessary. We have lots of exciting learning and activities planned for the children, including the whole school focus on the continent of Asia, in which Key Stage One will be learning all about Thailand. We have a new topic on "Castles", including a planned visit to Lowther Castle. We also have our Sports' Day to look forward to. As you can see, it will be another busy and exciting term!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss Fisher

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our English lessons, this half term, will be focusing on exclamation sentences. Pupils will learn about this through a study of the books by Julia Donaldson. They will continue to learn how to use inverted commas and adverbs in our writing. Pupils will practise developing a neat handwriting style and apply their phonic knowledge to support spelling accuracy. The children will continue to have lots of reading opportunities, encouraging an ethos of "Reading for Pleasure".</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Our maths lessons will continue to focus on developing confidence using a range of different strategies to support calculations. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their mental arithmetic skills and encouraged to learn more of their 2x, 5x and 10x tables. The children will develop strategies to solve addition and subtraction money problems. They will continue to develop their skills and understanding of how to solve word problems and secure written methods for showing calculations.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will be finishing off our topic about plants, minibeasts and food chains, before moving onto to our new topic focusing on "Materials". This will link to our "Castles" topic, where we will be investigating the properties of materials in order to build some model castles e.g. Which materials are the most waterproof to line a moat, and which are the strongest materials to build the walls?</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>The focus of IT lessons, this half term, will be using search engines to find information that relate to our topics. In particular we will be using the website http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/science_6_7.shtml to find out about materials. The children will also continue to develop their keyboard and mouse skills.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>Our history unit links in with our topic on "Castles". The children will be learning about the features of Norman and Medieval castles and thinking about what life might have been like for those living in a castle, including the roles and jobs they had. The children will also be thinking about the Battle of Hastings and the Bayeux Tapestry.</p>

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>In geography, we will be learning about land features and thinking about why castles were built on hills. We will be learning about the four countries in the UK, thinking about the castles in the capital cities.</p> <p>During Asia Theme Week, Key Stage One will be learning about Thailand. We will be learning about the country, climate, food and customs.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our art sessions support our topics and we will be creating pictures in the style of the Bayeux tapestry. We will also be sketching and drawing castles. In design technology sessions, the children will be designing, making and evaluating their own model castles, and using a variety of materials and tools safely.</p> <p>We will also be creating artwork inspired by Thailand, using a range of skills, and materials.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>Our music programme this half term is entitled "Reflect, rewind and replay". The children will be listening to and appraising different genres of music, using technical vocabulary and developing their musical skills.</p> <p>Linked to our "Castles" topic, the children will also be listening to medieval instruments and songs.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children will have two P.E. sessions a week, one of which may be indoors if the weather is poor. The indoor sessions will focus on gymnastics, travelling and balancing. The outdoor sessions will focus on developing outdoor games and athletics. We are also looking forward to Sports' Day this half term.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>Our RE theme, this half term, focuses on an Enquiry Question, "Is there a God?" We will be exploring both the Christian and Muslim faiths.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will think about the similarities and differences in people from different cultures, learning about lifestyles, traditions and customs that are unfamiliar to us. We will also be recapping the five school values that we have introduced this year (beingResilient, Resourceful, Reflective, Respectful and Responsible).</p>
<p>Educational Visits</p>	<p>This half term, we will be taking the children to Lowther Castle to look at sources of evidence, follow maps and explore the grounds. We have two visits planned, one for all Year 1 pupils and another for Year 2 pupils.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books are fine). • Writing (shopping lists, invitations, letters, labels, stories, diaries) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Exploring plants and animals that live in the garden. • Researching about Castles and making a project book.