

8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Mrs Leck

<p>English</p> 	<p>During this half term, the children will have lots of opportunities to use their skills to develop the quality of their writing. The children will be writing for a range of different purposes, including descriptions, letters, recounts and explanations. We will continue to remind the children about using their phonic knowledge to spell words correctly, but will also be focusing on common words that don't use the normal spelling rules. "Reading for Pleasure" continues to be a focus, and the children will be challenged to read fluently and expressively, aiming for a speed of approximately 90 words per minute. For every piece of work, we will be encouraging the children to use their neatest, cursive handwriting to be proud of what they have accomplished.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be consolidating the skills and knowledge that have been taught during the course of this year. We will be using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations to solve problems, and will be encouraging the children to use both mental skills and written methods to find the answer. The children will develop their confidence using 2 and 3 digit numbers. They will be revising the 2x, 5x and 10x tables and starting to think about the 3x and 4x tables in readiness for Year 3. Children will continue to practise telling the time using 5 minute intervals, making links between digital and analogue times.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will be finishing off our topic about plants, minibeast and food chains before moving onto to our new topic focusing on "Materials". This will link to our "Castles" topic, and we will be investigating the properties of materials in order to build some model castles. The children will be exploring which materials are the most waterproof to line a moat, and which are the strongest to build the walls.</p>
<p>IT and Computing</p> 	<p>The focus of IT lessons, this half term, will be using search engines to find information that relates to our topics. In particular, we will be using the website <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/science_6_7.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/science_6_7.shtml</a> 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 learning 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, 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 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. If the weather is fine, the children will be developing their tennis skills. We will also be learning summer sports and team games such as rounders 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 (being Resilient, 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"> <li>• Daily reading (school books or home books are fine).</li> <li>• Writing (shopping lists, invitations, letters, labels, stories, diaries)</li> <li>• Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring)</li> <li>• Shopping (using coins and getting change)</li> <li>• Telling the time</li> <li>• Researching about Castles and making a project book.</li> <li>• Learning how to tie shoelaces.</li> </ul>

