

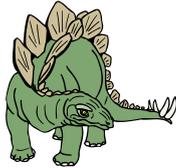
11th January 2018

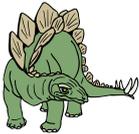
Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and that the children are looking forward to another busy and exciting term at Castle Park School. Once again, we would like to outline what we will be learning this term, so that you can be involved in your child's learning. Our two main topics for this half term are "Dinosaurs" and "Winter" which we hope will engage and inspire the children to develop their skills across the curriculum. We also have another whole school themed week to look forward to just before half term, this time focussing on the countries of the **United Kingdom**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement (Class teachers)

<p>English</p> 	<p>The children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson which supports reading and spelling development. The focus for this will be the different spelling patterns for all of the long vowel sounds, for example, the 'ai', 'ay' and 'a-e' spellings of the long 'a' sound. Our weekly guided reading sessions will also continue in order to develop fluency and comprehension skills. Writing tasks will link closely with topics, with pupils reading and responding to Winter poems and then writing their own. In addition, non-fiction texts will be used to support the writing of dinosaur fact files and class books.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In mathematics, the initial focus will be on place value. The children will start by partitioning teens numbers into tens and ones. They will learn how to represent these numbers in words, digits, pictorally and with equipment such as base ten. They will then move onto recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes and investigating their properties. Finally, pupils will learn a range of methods for solving addition and subtraction calculations to 20.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, the children will use our topic on dinosaurs to look at variation and adaptation within a species. They will be sorting dinosaurs into groups e.g. herbivores and carnivores, explaining the different features of these groups. The children will continue their ongoing work about seasonal changes, looking at how animals and plants adapt to cold climates/winter. Pupils will also be using ice as a stimulus for promoting scientific investigations based on melting and freezing.</p>
<p>IT and Computing</p> 	<p>The focus of computing lessons will be developing word processing skills. Pupils will continue to learn about keeping safe online using the www.thinkuknow website. The children will also be using search engines on the ipads to find information that relates to their topics.</p>

<p>History</p> 	<p>Our dinosaur topic will give children the opportunity to think about animals that inhabited the earth millions of years ago and are now extinct. They will be learning about fossils and how they tell us what dinosaurs looked like. The children will be using information books to find out some amazing facts about specific dinosaurs.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>In our United Kingdom themed week, the children will be identifying the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. They will learn to use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our art sessions will support our topic and will focus on print making this half term. The children will be creating dinosaur footprints using a variety of printing techniques, and creating repeated patterns with their prints. They will also be using "Winter" as a stimulus for artwork and observational drawing.</p> <p>As part of Design and Technology, pupils will be exploring and making moving pictures.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>The children will be learning how to play the tuned bells this term and will be developing their skills when reading simple notation and following a beat.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session will focus on gymnastics and the children will be developing a simple floor routine. The outdoor session will focus on developing skills used for netball, football and hockey. Please ensure that your child has a tracksuit (or similar warm clothing) as part of their outdoor P.E. kit, as we will be outside unless it is pouring with rain!</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be looking at special books and stories within the Christian and Muslim faiths. They will also think about their own books that have a special meaning to them.</p>
<p>Personal, Social and Health Education</p> 	<p>Our P.S.H.E. curriculum will allow the children to think about New Year's Resolutions - new beginnings, making changes or starting something new.</p> <p>The children will start to unpick the range of feelings they might experience in different situations and, through discussion in Philosophy sessions, they will be encouraged to express their opinions and value each other's ideas.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>In conjunction with our "Winter" topic, the children will be considering some of the issues surrounding melting ice caps and the impact this has on the wildlife living there. They will also be thinking about how to care for wild animals locally and respect and care for their habitat.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home in addition to the weekly spellings and Friday Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books are fine) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Telling the time