

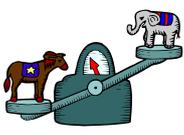
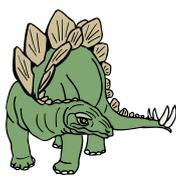
9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. I 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, I 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 focusing on the countries of the **Americas**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Merriman (Class teacher)

<p>English</p> 	<p>The children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson. This learning will be incorporated into all other lessons to help children spell, read and write an increasing range of words. The children will also have a weekly guided reading session and a one-to-one reading session with an adult.</p> <p>The children will continue to embed their sentence writing skills for a variety of different purposes including non-fiction booklets, stories, poetry and question writing. When writing, we will be focusing on correct letter formation, using full stops and question marks correctly, using capital letters at the start of sentences and for names and locations, using finger spaces and extending our sentences with connectives and adjectives.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In maths, the children will begin by focusing on place value with numbers 0-20. This work will include looking at counting forwards and backwards and ordering and comparing numbers. The main focus will be on tens and ones with two digit numbers. Then, we will be embedding the children's addition and subtraction skills with numbers 0-20. Towards the end of the half term, the children will also begin to explore place value with numbers 0-50.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half-term, the children will use our topic on dinosaurs to identify different types of dinosaurs and classify them into groups e.g. herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. We will also identify and name common wild and garden birds, in connection with our DT project. We will continue to develop our questioning, speaking and listening skills whilst we are exploring this topic. The children will continue their ongoing work about seasonal changes, looking at the changes in day length and weather in Winter compared to Autumn.</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 <a href="http://www.thinkuknow">www.thinkuknow</a> 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>Our Americas themed week will take place just before half term. The children will be finding out about different countries that form North and South America, and taking part in lots of activities to learn more about the geographical features, landmarks, landscapes and culture of one of these countries.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our art sessions will support our topic and will focus on printmaking and claywork this half-term. The children will learn about patterns in art and they will design their own scales for a dinosaur on a printing plate. We will be making our own ammonite fossils using clay. The children will also be using "Winter" as a stimulus for artwork and observational drawing.</p> <p>As part of Design and Technology and linked with the focus on Winter, pupils will be designing, creating and evaluating a bird feeder.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>Our music sessions this half term will focus on following a beat or rhythm in a piece of music. The children will also be using the glockenspiels to play a sequence of notes whilst keeping in time to the music.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session will be led by football coach Tosh Farrell, who will be teaching the children some key skills, including spatial awareness, marking, changing speed and direction and working together. The outdoor session will focus on using the skills practised last term to develop small team games in 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.</p> <p>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"> <li>• Daily reading (school books or home books)</li> <li>• Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, lists, book reviews)</li> <li>• Practicing phonics, for example, on Phonics Play (please come and ask if you want additional resources for phonics to help your child at home)</li> <li>• Talking about seasonal changes</li> <li>• Counting objects to represent 2-digit numbers</li> </ul>

