

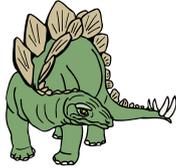
9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had lovely Christmas holiday. We have planned another busy and exciting term at Castle Park School. Here's an overview of our learning this term, where our two main topics are "Dinosaurs" and "Winter". We hope they will engage and inspire the children to develop their skills across the curriculum. As well as our fabulous Forest School Fridays, there is also an exciting, whole school themed week planned, focusing on 'the Americas', just before half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement

<p>English</p> 	<p>The children will continue to have a daily, fun phonics lesson to support reading, writing and spelling development. Weekly guided reading and "Reading for Pleasure" sessions will help to develop application of phonics skills, independence and fluency. The children will be learning alternative spellings for sounds they already know e.g. ee, ea, ie etc. The children will continue to develop their independence, accuracy and stamina for writing sentences for a variety of purposes. We will be practising using time connectives like 'first', 'next', 'in the end' etc. when writing our news recounts as well as using words like 'because' and 'also' to extend and add detail to sentences.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In maths, the children will start by extending their practical, written and mental addition and subtraction skills to work with numbers up to 20. Within this, we will learn our number bonds to 20. We will then start to work on place value, extending our knowledge of tens and ones to numbers up to 50 and beyond. Finally, pupils will work on measures including length, height, volume and weight. We will continue to develop children's mental maths skills by working daily on our personalised 'learn it' facts.</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 to finish our Scratch programming topic and then to develop 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 print making and claywork this half term. The children will be creating dinosaur footprints using a variety of printing techniques, and creating repeated patterns with their prints. 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. As part of Design Technology, pupils will be exploring and making moving pictures.</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. <b>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!</b></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. 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. Our Friday <b>Forest School</b> work will link to this too.</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: 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) and telling the time.</p>