

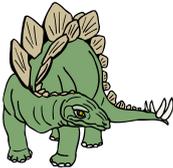
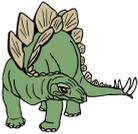
9th January 2020

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. 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 a whole school themed week to look forward to just before half term, focusing on the countries of the **Americas**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Leck (Class teacher)

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| <p>English</p>  | <p>The children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson which supports reading and spelling development and a weekly guided reading and "Reading for Pleasure" session, in order to develop fluency and comprehension skills. There will be a strong focus on grammar and punctuation this half term and the children will develop their understanding of nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. Pupils will also be looking at the use of commas in lists and apostrophes to indicate possession or a word contraction. The children will continue to develop and extend their ideas and stamina for writing by writing for a range of purposes and drawing on real life experiences.</p> |
| <p>Mathematics</p>  | <p>In maths, the children will start by recapping the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They will then move onto recognising the UK coins, adding coins together to make different totals. Finally, pupils will recall and use multiplication facts using 2, 5, 10 (and 3) times tables to help learn the related division facts. We will continue to develop children's skills when solving word problems and secure written methods for showing calculations.</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 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> |

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| <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.</p> <p>As part of Design and 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. 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>RF</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"> • 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 |