

Dear Parents and Carers of the children in Squirrel Class,

I hope that you have all had a fabulous Easter holiday. We have a very busy half term planned for the children which promises to be both exciting and engaging!

Our topic for the term is 'castles and knights'. Throughout the topic we will be looking at the location of castles, castles local to us, along with how castles changed through time. We will be learning about William the Conqueror and his journey to England, and bringing this to life through role play. We will be looking at the Bayeux tapestry and the story it tells of William's journey, before creating our own version of the Bayeux tapestry in art.

Literacy this term extended stories and recounts. We will begin with extended stories, using Charlie and the Chocolate factory as a model. We will be looking at the structure of these stories, and how the characters and plot develop. We will then be writing our own extended story set in a castle, considering our characters for the story and the storyline. We will then be moving on to revisit recounts, both from our own personal experience and based on historical events.

In mathematics we are looking at addition and subtraction, including mental maths in both of these areas. We will also be using money in maths, alongside investigating with weight. We will also be learning how to present data in pictograms, graphs and charts, developing our skills in data handling.

As scientists we will be learning about plants in our local area. We will be looking at the pollen found in a variety of plants, along with the process of pollination. We will then move on to consider plants as a food source, thinking carefully about which parts of a plant we eat regularly. We will then move on to explore how plants grow, and what they need to grow, before planting our own seeds to care for over the half term.

As historians we will be learning about castles and knights. We will begin by learning about William the Conqueror, and his journey to England. We will look at the Bayeux tapestry, considering the story it tells through pictures of the event. We will then move on to learn about some of the first castles that were built in England, before learning about castles which are local to us.

In Physical Education we will be learning some traditional dances. This will consist of a variety of routines which we will learn as a class, this is great for our own coordination, as well as our ability to work as a group! We will also be learning about athletics, and taking part in some fun, educational athletic activities outside.

Our Religious Education is focussed around Christianity. We will be learning about significant leaders and teachers, along with considering who we see as a leader in our own lives.

Our Computing module this term is *we are storytellers* where we will be working towards creating our own audio book. This is in line with the New Curriculum and will be taught in a fun, engaging, practical manner, alongside using the laptops and iPads.

Our Personal, Social and Health Education is based on the unit 'career and work related learning'. We will be looking at different people, job roles and careers, as well as considering what we would like to be when we grow up!

As artists over the half term is textiles. In relation to our topic and our learning in history, we will be recreating our own version of a section of the Bayeux tapestry, using a range of different materials and techniques.

As designers we will be designing and creating our own shields, considering the different shapes, materials and designs we could use.

### Important changes

PE will be a combination of **indoor** and **outdoor** activities over the half term, therefore the children will need suitable **outdoor clothing** please. PE will continue to take place on Thursday's and Friday's, however it would be appreciated if your child could have their PE kit in school at all times.

Homework will be given out on **Monday's** and handed in on **Friday's**. We will be doing exciting writing every Friday and information about this will be given out with homework each Monday.

Spelling tests are carried out each **Friday**, and new spellings will be given each week.

This term I will be introducing **times table tests** into the timetable. These will be every two weeks on a Monday and you will be informed in homework books the times table which will be tested. As you may be aware the children have been practicing their times tables regularly in school, the times table tests ensure that they are becoming familiar with them in preparation for moving into the next year group in September.

As a team we endeavour to hear each child read at least twice per week. However, if your child needs to change their book between reading in school, you are welcome to come into the classroom afterschool on **Tuesday's** and **Thursday's** in order to do so.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always open and I am available to listen and help wherever possible.

Miss Orritt.