

# Year 1 Spring 2 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a relaxing half-term break. Our topic for this half term will be **Castles**. We will be learning about what it was like to live and work in a castle for different people. We will gather information about castle features, people who work and live in a castle and what it was like to live in a castle. At the end of the topic the children will take part in a Castle Day and celebrate the end of the topic with knight training and medieval dancing.

If you have any queries, please speak to us on the door in the morning or at the end of the day.

## Our Curriculum

**English:** George and the Dragon, Castles

**Maths:** Place Value to 50, Length and Height, Mass and Volume.

**Science:** Animals and their habitats

**History:** Queens

**RE:** Holi and Easter

**PE:** Gymnastics, Sending and Receiving

**PSHE:** Rights and Respects

**ICT:** Computer Science (Maze Explorers)  
Information Technology (animated story books)

**Music:** Carnival of Animals

The children will also have phonics and handwriting lessons.

## Home Challenge

This half term we will be looking at castles in History. The half termly challenge is for you and your child to create a shield for them to use during Knight's Training in school later in the term. You can think up your own designs for the front of your shields. We have included a few pictures to give you some ideas. Please bring in your shield on our Castle Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Please see the separate letter included in next week's mailing.



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## Reading

We cannot overemphasise how important and beneficial it is to listen to your child read at home as often as possible. There are clear links between how frequently a child reads and their progress in all academic areas.

At the end of every half term we will count how many times your child has read at home. Anyone who reads (on average) at least 3 times per week will receive a bookmark and will have their name in the newsletter. **A big well done and congratulations** to the following children who all read at least 18 times at home during Spring 1.

**Squirrel Class:** Adam, Anderson, Ayan, Charlie, Freddie, Grace, Jamie, Leo, Louis, Lukas, Samara, Vihaan, Walter

**Fox Class:** Brayden, Connor, Eleanor, Harper, Gracie, Gracie-Pearl, Ivy Rose, Jacob, Kamil, Kelbey, Max, Raul, Secha, Simina, Yusra

**Otter Class:** Alexandros, Alyssa, Arthur, Elsie, Erin, Jack, Jenson, Kayden, Leon, Lola-Mae, Phoebe, Vishnav

The child who reads the most in each class will also be rewarded with a book. Congratulations to Grace (Squirrel Class), Eleanor (Fox Class) and Alyssa (Otter Class).

When you listen to your child read, please record this in their reading diary and write what page they read to. Please don't use a green pen as that is what we use in school. We usually recommend reading a book twice before changing it so the children can build their fluency. We do not expect the children to read a whole book in one go and just a couple of pages every night will still be very beneficial. In school we encourage the children to read a page and use their phonic knowledge to sound out any words they are unsure of. We then ask them to re-read the same page so they can "read with speed" before moving on to the next one. This means trying to read the sentence again without having to sound out all the words.

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## PE

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing a tracksuit and brings some shorts in their book bag to change into for indoor PE. If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure their earrings are removed on PE days; if their ears are newly pierced, please ensure they have padded micropore tape over them. Please tie up long hair.

The normal PE days are as follows:

Squirrel Class: Wednesday and Thursday

Fox Class: Thursday and Friday

Otter Class: Tuesday and Thursday



## Dates for your diary



**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day. Please come dressed as your favourite Book Character.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Red Nose Day

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Mother's Day Sale

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Parents' Evening after school

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Castle Day - please bring in your shield

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Easter Fun Day

Kind regards,

The Year One Team