

## Reception Term 3: January 2017



Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back. A huge thank you for your kind gifts and cards, we hope you had a good Christmas break. Last term the children were asked about areas of interest and the most popular topic, as voted by the children, was “Castles, Princesses (including other royalty) and Knights”, so that will be our new topic this term (coincidentally, Year 1 and 2 are also covering this topic this term!). Please see the children’s ‘Growth Green’ questions about this topic displayed in the class window. If you have not yet done so, please send back Christmas homework as we have begun the term by talking to your child about their favourite toys and experiences from Christmas.

**Literacy** We are looking at differences and features of non-fiction and fiction books. (e.g. contents page, index, title, publisher, author, illustrator.) Some of the texts we will look at this term include: non-fiction texts on castles; Jack and the Beanstalk; Sleeping Beauty and other traditional tales. Please encourage your child to bring in any of their favourite books related to Castles/ Knights/ Royalty.

**Maths** We will continue to develop skills in the following: counting, ordering and writing (0-10, 10-20 and beyond); number patterns; addition (number bonds to 5 or 10); subtraction; time (o'clock, days of the week), money (counting and coin recognition), 3D and 2D shape; measuring skills (non-standard units to weigh and measure e.g. unifix bricks, hand-spans). The children will be encouraged to use maths knowledge to solve simple problems and play games. Our role play area is to become a castle where the children will be role playing paying for admission (!) to help develop their awareness of using money in practical situations. You can help your child at home by playing shops and helping them to recognise different coins.

**Understanding the World:** We have begun the topic looking at Queen Elizabeth II’s family tree; the children were really interested and talking about their own relatives. As a result, please can you help your child to complete the attached **‘Family Tree’ sheet and bring it back to school by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January** (feel free to add paper and expand if you wish!). We will then be learning about Buckingham Palace and royal pets; investigating where, why and how castles were built; looking at what it was like to live in a castle. If you have information or pictures from castle visits that you and your child are willing to share, we would love to look at them. To support your child at home this term please talk to them about castles, and encourage them to create a castle, this may be in whichever media you/ your child prefers! For example, using junk modelling, Lego, painting, drawing, collage etc. We would love to see any models/photos of these in class throughout term 3.

### Here are a few ideas to help your child at home

- **Reading:** Please send your child’s book bag in every day and continue to share and read the books and practise letter sounds and keywords with your child. Remember **reading little and often** rather than one long session is more beneficial to your child’s progress. Please do not worry if your child has not yet brought home words or a reading book with words: all children learn at different paces, but if you would like to discuss further ways in which you can support your child’s reading at home then please pop in and see any of us.

- Play simple counting and adding games e.g. snakes and ladders, ludo, dominoes or adding two dice together.
- Talk about your child's day and share your day with them.
- Practise letter and word formation, e.g. writing name, making lists, writing simple letters, making labels.
- RE: the children will be focusing on 'Helping others' and reading the story 'Puddles Lends a Paw'.
- This term our Christian value is 'courage'- we will be encouraging the children to be like our Achievosaurus! (Please refer to your information on Achievosaurus from the workshop on Characteristics of Effective Learners).

### **Additional information**

- Please remember to send in named tee-shirt and shorts for your child for dance in PE (no daps/plimsolls needed this term). We would also be grateful if you could continue to send in weekly fruit contributions which the children continue to enjoy!
- Please see the 'Parents Information' window for your child's new Show and Tell dates on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- We would be grateful if parents could make contributions of spare underwear, tights and socks, school trousers, skirts and dresses, so that children can be changed if accidents occur. Unfortunately not many of these items of clothing have been returned when children have taken them home.

Best wishes for 2017 and many thanks for your continued support,

J Welsh

C Hewson