



A Knight's Tale!



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER YEAR 2: AUTUMN TERM

This newsletter is designed to give parents and carers a taste of the coming topic for Year 2. We have detailed below the main themes that we hope to cover, although there may be changes to respond to the children's ideas and interests. Children also regularly join in our 'Fun Friday' curriculum experiences this half term. We hope you find this newsletter useful!

STIMULUS: a visit to Colchester Castle!

Annual Events: Parent's Evening, Harvest, Operation Christmas Child, Remembrance Assembly, Christmas events. (Please see the school website for dates).

LITERACY:

In writing we will make up stories linked to the castles and knights theme. In non fiction we will write recounts stimulated by our school visit and information texts showing what we have learned about castles and knights.

MATHEMATICS:

Problem solving activities to develop thinking skills and independence will be a priority. Basic mathematics teaching follows the National Strategy.

MUSIC:

We will be exploring the different elements of music, learning topic related songs and listening to music as a stimulus for dance, drama and for musical appreciation.

ART:

In painting we will be developing our brush technique and colour mixing skills. In drawing we will use line and shape to explore castles and the work of Paul Klee. In sculpture we will make box craft castles to decorate.

HISTORY:

We will study the way of life in the distant past, find out about castles, what they look like, their features and where they are

situated. We will also explore the differences between life in a medieval castle and the life we live today stimulated by our visit to Colchester Castle.

GEOGRAPHY:

We will focus on the UK, naming counties, capital cities and seas. We will also use a variety of maps, atlases and directional language in our research.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:

We will be exploring preparation of vegetables and making soup. We will explore joining techniques to link with making castles in art, and our product will be a hand puppet. We will design, make and then evaluate our puppets as well as use them for telling stories!

SCIENCE:

The key areas are uses of everyday materials and finding out about animals (including humans).

PE:

Games (outdoors while we can), dance and then starting floor work in gymnastics are the main units. We follow the Essex PE scheme for this.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We follow the Essex agreed syllabus for RE. The themes are

'Special Words and Stories' and 'Special People'. Year 2 will find out about Judaism as their link religion and explore the festival of Christmas as well as visit the church for special assemblies.

PSHE:

We are following units of work based on 'Emotiona' and 'Managing Risk and Change' as part of growing up and moving to Year 2.

COMPUTING:

Key skills will be taught in the units of 'Real World Modelling' and 'Control' as well as using ICT across the curriculum.

In some subjects we follow separate schemes of work which are not always linked to the topic. (reading, spelling, handwriting, grammar and mathematics). Some subjects are blocked and taught during a particular half term so that we can study more in depth with the children.

Don't forget you can help at home with daily reading, playing maths games and using the 'Espresso' and 'Oxford Owl' websites.