

Curriculum Newsletter - Spring 1 2026



May we wish you all a "Happy New Year! For the first half of this term our topic is **'In and Around the Castle'**
Here are some suggestions for ways to support your child's learning at home this half term:

Ways to Help your Child at Home



Language and Literacy Skills

- Continue to talk about everything together! Try and have mealtimes without screens.
- Read stories related to Castles, knights, princes and princesses and share language related to the books
- Play "I Spy" – linked to colours, initial sounds 's' and 'a'
- Think of songs and nursery rhymes
e.g. Grand old Duke of York, Humpty Dumpty, Horsey, horsey
- Talk about initial letter sounds, especially s, a, t and p
- Let them practise forming the letters from their name using a wide range of resources – flour, mud, rice, playdough
- Make up alliterative names for family members eg super Sophie, magical Musa

Personal and Social Skills

- Let your child dress themselves for Nursery
- Sequence the order in which they get dressed
- Encourage your child to; put on their own coat, scarf, hat, mittens, wellies, do up their own zip or buttons
- Remind them to look after their toys and tidy them away carefully
- Talk about why we share, take turns and help our friends
- Encourage independence all the time now they are growing up

We will be having a 'Royal Banquet' celebration on Tuesday 10th February where the children can come to Nursery dressed as a knight, prince, princess or dragon if they wish to. More details to follow.

Maths Skills

- Count everyday objects, tagging them to be accurate
- Estimate how many things you can see and then count
- Count steps / stairs as you go up / down
- Let them help to lay the table – how many knives, forks and spoons are needed?
- Let them help sort socks into pairs and count how many socks there are altogether, sort the washing into different sets
- Recognise numerals while you are out and about
- Talk about patterns on scarves, jumpers
- Sort clothes/shoes according to size
- Talk about time – what takes a long time/short time



Creative, Small Motor Skills and Understanding the World

- Let them build up those writing muscles by rolling, pinching and manipulating clay, dough, soil, pastry
- Try lots of mark-making tools, such as fingers, twigs, feathers, crayons, coloured pencils, paintbrushes
- Use a variety of fabrics to make collage pictures
- Talk about the feel of different materials
- Use old boxes to make buildings, a castle, modes of transport
- Talk about features of own home and the local environment and compare to a castle
- Talk about the town they live in, their road name and house number
- Dance to different types of music and listen to the beat

- ❖ The comments written about your child's responses to the stories they choose are really appreciated and help us hugely, so please keep writing in the reading record books. Encourage your child add a smiley face if they like the book you have shared together.
- ❖ Please check your child has named black pumps in Nursery and that they still fit them. They all need a spare change of clothes in Nursery too.
- ❖ 'Bike Friday' will continue. Please check your child's helmet fits securely every Friday morning, especially if they have a variety of hairstyles.

In Nursery we will be working together on the following areas:

Expressive Arts & Design

- Using the role play imaginatively: home-corner/castle
- Singing nursery rhymes, in particular; The Grand Old Duke of York, Horsey, Horsey, 1,2,3,4,5
Once I caught a fish alive
- Tapping out simple repeated rhythms, marching to a beat
- Enjoying and exploring instruments
- Describing textures of different materials
- Developing skills with construction sets – building castles
- Designing patterns on flags

Mathematics

- Comparing two groups saying when they have the same number
- Separating groups of objects in different ways recognising the total is the same
- Beginning to say the number that comes before or after any number up to 10
- Ordering numerals
- Identifying shapes – on clothing, flags
- Ordering items by length/height/weight/capacity
- Creating repeated patterns
- Estimating and counting objects
- Looking at designs of royal clothes, flags, talking about colour and pattern

In and Around the Castle



Understanding the World

- Exploring seasonal changes
- Exploring our personal timeline
- Celebrating Chinese New Year, Ramadan and World Religion Day
- Operating Beebots and the Interactive White Board
- Investigating materials – what we use them for and where we get them from
- Exploring clothing of knights, princesses & princes in fictional stories and real life
- Learning about castles around the world
- Exploring the features of different castles over time – old and new
- Understanding about princes & princesses from different cultures and around the world

Communication & Language Development

- Developing the children's questioning skills
- Answering questions using full sentences
- Listening to stories linked to castles, knights and princesses
- Building up a wide vocabulary linked to castles, princesses, knights, seasons
- Learning how to take part in group discussions as both the listener and the speaker

Physical Development

- Developing ability to move around safely, avoiding others in a space
- Balancing on various parts of the body
- Moving in time to a beat
- Using equipment safely
- Simple weaving and threading
- Continuing to develop throwing and catching skills
- Pedalling and controlling a variety of wheeled equipment

Personal & Social Development

- Putting on coats, gloves etc doing them up to go outside
- Setting goals for themselves
- Working hard to reach their goal, building levels of perseverance
- Understanding they are all good at different things and knowing what makes them special
- Considering our 'Dreams and Goals' with Jigsaw Jenie

Literacy

- Describing story settings, events and main characters and suggesting how a story might end
- Understanding rhythm, rhyme and alliteration
- Recognising/writing some letters
- Hearing the initial sounds in words
- Forming the letters in our names correctly