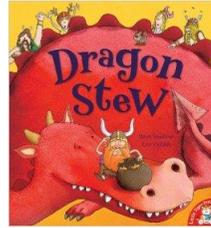


Dear Reception and Nursery

Parents, here is our topic for this half term. Please use it to aid your own research or bring things into class to support our learning. Have fun!



As individuals and friends we will:

Think about how we could use the knight's code to live a better life. Being honest, kind and helpful and helping people in need. Talk about how we could help our parents with household chores, elderly relatives or neighbours. What could our class motto be? How would it make people feel if we helped them?



As healthy movers we will:

Form recognisable letters which are correctly formed. Begin to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines. We are beginning to be able to write on the lines using a tripod grip. We will have a jousting competition using a hobby horse, a garden cane and balloons tied to the fence. Make swords from modelling balloons and have a sword fight. Use a sword to write letters and numbers in the sand. Make dragon bread, kneading and moulding it. Medieval dances and games.

As communicators we will: Describe my own home and what it is made of. Compare this to a castle. Learn new vocabulary including bold, brave, honour, protect, lance, turret, moat, shield, armour, draw bridge, battlement. Talk about famous knights such as King Arthur, Joan of Ark and Richard the Lionheart. Sing songs and rhymes about dragons and knights including 'Puff the magic dragon', 'Three brave knights' and 'All around the castle'. Talk about things that have happened in the past. Answer how and why questions in response to stories and events.

As readers and writers we will:

Read stories about knights and dragons including 'Dragon stew', 'Princess Mirror belle and the dragon pox', 'George and the dragon' and 'Zog'. Non-fiction books about castles. Identify features of information texts. We will learn stories using actions and describe settings and characters. We will write scrolls using a quill pen and send messages between our castles. Action words will be introduced to encourage correct spelling of some words. Create poster, signs and labels for our outside market. Label the parts of a castle and their function. Write a recount of our visit to Durham castle, ordering photographs into the correct order.

As mathematicians we will: Estimating and counting number of ships and soldiers in Williams army - more/less. Ordering numbers to 20 and beyond. Counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. 2D and 3D shape in castles. Repeating pattern tapestries. Measures - height of castle walls, length of dragons, capacity of oil buckets, weight of catapult missiles. Who can build the tallest tower in one minute? Start the sand timer & children build a castle tower using Lego, Duplo, wooden blocks or other construction toys. Who has the tallest tower? The shortest? How do you know? Arrange the towers in height order. Count the spikes on the dragons back. Count features in castles, such as flags, windows, turrets etc. Use dried beans as dragon eggs and share them between the dragons. Make nests for the dragon eggs, adding and taking away eggs and recording our calculations as a number sentence.

Homes and Castles



As artists, actors and musicians:

Draw my house and describe it. Paint my house. Make shields, armour and swords using cardboard, tin foil and other resources. Design own coat of arms. Paint and draw castles and long ships. Use small word castle, knights and horses to re-enact battles. Make dragon sock puppets. Role play in our two castles, inside and outside. Write and take messages from castle to castle on hobby horse. Wear knight and princess dresses, eat at the knights table. Act out stories about knights and dragons. Build own castles from building blocks, and using large construction materials outside. Design and build cardboard box castles. Copy and create rhythms;

As explorers and investigators we will:

Look at Mike the knight on the internet. Find images of castles using the I pads. Draw a castle using paint program on the computer. Find out who knights are and what they do? What did they wear? Look at images of castles from around the world. Learn about the features of a castle and explore Durham castle on our visit. Learn about the people who lived in castles and their roles in castle life. Find the location of castles on a map. Look at the properties of materials, such as armour, shields, buildings.



As effective learners we will: Draw upon our previous knowledge or experiences not directly related to an activity. We will try and solve problems using a strategy. Talk about possible solutions with our peers. We will be confident at finding the resources we need for a project. Perseverance - castle builders didn't give up, but kept going until achieved.