



Topic Learning Letter

Early Years

Topic	Our topic this half term is <i>Castles and Kingdoms</i> .
Launch and Land	We are going to launch our topic with the children discovering a beanstalk, a castle and a giant pair of boots coming through the classroom ceiling! We will be detectives and look for clues to help us work out what has happened - Who do the boots belong to? Where does the beanstalk lead to? Who might live in the castle? We will land our topic with a visit to Colchester castle on Thursday 26 th March.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	Through our topic we will explore how our actions affect others, for example how Jack selling the cow for beans would have made his mother feel. We will consider if Jack would make a good friend and take part in a P4C enquiry which will develop our understanding of right and wrong and whether stealing can ever be right. We will also focus on dreams and goals within our PSHE lessons. We will learn about persevering through challenges and celebrating all the marvellous goals and dreams that the children achieve each day, week, and month.
Communication and Language	This half term we will continue to develop our communication and language across the curriculum. The children will have opportunities in their play through role play, small world, and storytelling. In addition, there will be structured opportunities to talk in pairs, small groups and as a whole class.
Physical Development	We will continue to develop our skills through a multitude of games and multi-sports with Mr Gilkes. With our class teachers will be focussing on dance and yoga where we continue to learn to have control over our bodies and movements. We will continue to develop our handwriting and letter formation, focusing on the size of the different letters comparatively.
Expressive Arts and Design	We will continue to have our music sessions with Mrs Fitt. We will look at the features of castles and then design and make a large scale castle out of construction equipment for the Grand Old Duke of York. The children will also look at Van Gogh's Sunflower painting and create their own observational drawings.
Understanding the World	This half-term we will be comparing our homes with homes around the world, thinking about the reasons as to why they are different. We will also be learning about homes in the past, and in particular castles. In addition, the children will each grow a sunflower to learn how to care for a plant and begin to understand life cycles.
Literacy	In Literacy, we will be learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We will be writing sentences linking to speech bubbles and colourful semantics. We will practice rehearsing and building sentences first following a structure, before writing in our books to help with holding a sentence. Nearer the end of the term, we will be writing instructions for planting a sunflower. Phonics will continue to be taught daily- we will be consolidation the digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words we introduced last half term.
Maths	This half-term we will be spending time on both Number and Shape, Space and Measure. We will begin by focussing on length and height and will then look at the composition of numbers 9 and 10. We will continue to support children in learning their number bonds for 5 (and some to ten) by heart. The children will also explore and learn about 3D shape.
Reminders	This term, our PE slot will be Tuesday morning, and Friday afternoon. Your child will need to wear their full PE kit to school on these days. A polite reminder that on these days, if your child does wear earrings, they will need to be removed. Please continue to hear your children read at home daily – it really does make a difference to their fluency and confidence.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please talk to one of the Early Years Team.