



Chestnut Class

Spring Term 1: Towers, Tunnels & Turrets

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and are all well. Such difficult times at the moment, let us hope and pray for this new coming year.

The **topic** for this term is Towers, Tunnels and Turrets, a perfect topic to follow on from Kings and Queens. This half term we will dive into the adventures within castles. We will learn lots about famous castles, castles throughout the ages, the different parts within a castle and the life of many who lived and worked. This topic is heavily focused on Design & Technology, so there will be plenty of opportunities to design, build and evaluate parts of a castle. We will have time to look at some great engineers through history who have given us many brilliant structural designs of castles, towers and bridges.

We will carry the theme into our **writing** and dive into the story of Rapunzel, who lives in a tall, tall tower. Then we will venture along the rickety bridge with the Billy Goats Gruff making sure that we watch out for the angry troll underneath. Finally, we meet the three little pigs who need our help to build a strong fortress. Together we will write recounts, alternative endings to stories and learn how to capture speech within writing. Excellent text and carefully modelling will help every child progress through the weeks. Our initial week starts with exploring Arundel Castle via virtual tour, our recount writing will enable us to become part of the life at our local castle.

A love for **reading** is vital for the children to flourish and explore all subjects. Reading text and learning how to answer comprehension questions will play an important part this term. At home please spend time enjoying a book with your child, a few minutes of reading a day soon adds up to an hour of reading. We are still not able to send reading books home. You can access free e-books on: www.oxfordowl.co.uk and you may be able to get books from the local libraries. We will endeavour to hear your child read during school as much as we can.

Spellings are set weekly on Monday and tested on Fridays. We want children to learn their spellings and use them in their writing. The spelling test will include a few spellings from previous weeks, just to ensure that they are retaining the words. The spelling overview will be attached to this letter. Your child will be set 2, 3, 4 or 5 spellings a week and I will send them out at the weekend on your individual seesaw account. I keep a running score of the test results and make changes, when needed. The spelling patterns are taught in school along with all of the words. This gives every child the opportunity to access a whole variety of vocabulary.

Our **Maths** lessons will look at multiplication & division and money this half term. In addition to our morning lessons we will also have a few mini maths sessions in the

afternoon. These will enable some children to revisit key objectives and others to explore numbers further.

Science lessons will look at materials; focusing on properties, different uses of materials and changes in materials. There will be wonderful investigations; we will design a new cloak for Little Red Riding Hood and conduct an experiment on bouncy balls. The children will carry out their own research and test various materials to draw conclusions.

Chestnut class have Forest school this half term, a fantastic chance for them to explore the outdoors. An additional **PE** lesson will take place on **Fridays**. **Please ensure that your child comes into school in their forest school kit on Wednesdays and a PE kit on Fridays**. Any ear-rings must be taken out or covered for the lessons and hair is to be tied up with a plain band. This half term we will look at gymnastics, building on skills involving making strong shapes, moving in a controlled manner and performance.

During **art** we will look at a famous artist: Paul Klee. We will observe his techniques, link it to our topic and experiment with various resources. Our **RE** lessons will look at creation. It will give the class a chance to ask questions and explore the initial story of creation in Genesis and then reflect on how we can look after our world.

We want your children to feel happy, safe and excited about coming to school to learn. Regular updates from the school will help you feel involved in your child's learning. Please remember to send your child in with a coat, water bottle and lunchbox (if needed). A piece of fruit will be provided for their morning snack but if they want to bring their own, then please make sure that it is in a small named container. Please remember that no toys, drawings or stationery is to be brought into school. Regular hand washing throughout the day will happen along with thorough cleaning of tables, surfaces, equipment and door handles.

Topic Homework will be coming home soon. A choice of activities based on the topic will be given, this can be completed throughout the first half of the Spring Term. Please ensure that any written work is completed in pencil. The topic work will be stuck in their homework book. You can either send the topic homework in electronically through seesaw or do the work in the homework book – whatever is easier for you. The homework needs to be completed by **Friday 5th February**. The homework books are only to be brought in on Friday 5th, with all the work completed. I can then leave the books over the weekend before marking them, thank you.

If you have any concerns about your child, please remember to speak to me, currently it is best to contact me via email. Many thanks for all your support.

Mrs Collins