



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

07.09.20

Dear Parents,

Learning in Goldfinch Class Autumn Term 2020

Welcome to Class Goldfinch. We hope you all had a restful summer break. Mrs Rush is our class LSA and is in every morning.

As the children return to a 'new normal' the first few days have been spent establishing new routines and settling the children in.

We have discussed what helps us to feel safe, happy and able to learn well at school and we have put our ideas into a Class Code of conduct.

During this term our topic is titled 'Time Travellers' and we will be learning about Castles. One of the questions we will be looking to answer is, 'Were castles a good place to live?' The children will be recording their thoughts on this and we shall be revisiting the question throughout the topic to see if their opinions have changed!

In English, we shall look at stories that are set in or around castles, including traditional tales and there will be a dragon theme to some of the stories we learn about too! The poetry we study will also have a castle theme. Non-fiction writing this term will begin with recounts when the children will have the opportunity to write about events they recall including things they have done during the summer holidays and first days at school. Later in the term, we shall look at writing instructions, which will be linked to our DT project and finally the children will write diary entries when they will adopt the role of a castle resident!

Reading

We would also like to encourage all children to read to someone at home, every night for about 10 minutes, as this is invaluable and vital to your child's learning. If you could initial their home-school link book or write a comment to show your child has read this will help us to praise your child in school. For those children in Year Two, it is important to discuss the text with your child when hearing them read. This will help develop their comprehension skills.

The children will be given dedicated time to change their books.



Maths

Maths this term will focus on place value, number, addition and subtraction. These foundations will then be embedded throughout the year. The children will develop their understanding of number and explore different ways to represent the numbers that they are working with. An Infant Maths booklet will be shared with you this term so you are able to see ways of recording that your child will be taught and this will then enable you to support them at home too.

History

Our history learning will focus on castles as homes in the past and looking at famous people that lived in castles. The children will explore why castles were built, when they were built and how they have changed over time. Whilst learning about castles, the children will also find out about the different jobs that were required to run a castle.

Science

We shall be investigating materials and forces in Science. The children will find learn the names of different materials and their properties and then identify the uses of these materials in everyday objects and the properties that make them suitable. They will then plan an investigation to find the best material to make a part of a model castle.

Design Technology

The children will use their scientific knowledge to help them to design and make a drawbridge on a 3-D model castle. Within this unit, they will look at and learn different ways to attach materials. We will be asking the children to design a castle and create it at home, using everyday junk modelling and then evaluating their creation. We will also be designing and making a Knight's shield from cardboard and embellishing it as designed.

Art

We will be experimenting with a variety of media: pencils, crayons, pastels, charcoal and Chalk. The children enjoy doing this! We will be doing some sketching of castles, silhouettes, looking at colour, shade and tone. We will be weaving using different materials to create a sample wall hanging for a castle!

Computing

We will be looking at how to stay safe online, understanding the dangers and that children should seek help if necessary. From this, we will compose our own set of online safety rules for the class. We will also be looking at algorithms to program a floor turtle and discuss ways in which we use technology in our world.

RE

This term we will be looking at Special People and Special places. We will be looking at the role people play in the local community, famous people and how we commemorate well-known people. We will incorporate learning about specific celebrations including Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Additional foci will be Sikhism; naming ceremonies and weddings. We will also be looking at places that are special to us; our school, the town we live in and places we visit for a holiday. We will look at Christianity, the local church and other local places of worship. Additional foci will be Islam. These lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons with Mrs Anstee.



PSHEe & C

We will be looking at the following headings over this term.

Relationships

Families and Friendships - Making friends; feeling lonely and getting help.

Safe Relationships - Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour.

Respecting ourselves and others - Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively, sharing opinions.

French will be taught by Mms Dekhar and the children will be learning the story of Les Quatre Amis

Class Routines

Our PE days are **Mondays and Thursdays**, so children will need to bring their shorts, jogging trousers, a t-shirt and plimsolls on these days. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons and that long hair needs to be tied back every day please. Children will need their outdoor PE kit for these lessons. **Please ensure your child has a spare pair of socks kept in their PE bag.**

The children have the opportunity to have a drink of water in class after each playtime. Please check that your child's water bottle is clearly named.

Let's presents will take place on Wednesday afternoons. Your child's allocated dates for this term will be in a separate letter. Any resources, e.g. PowerPoints for these can be e-mailed to admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk until Miss Johnston return when we will then use classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

All children will have their spellings tested on **Fridays**. Due to the current climate, the spelling books will be kept in school and your child's result will be recorded in their reading diary.

This year, a weekly Mathletics challenge will be set for your child that will focus on consolidating and extending your child's current learning. Please look out for details in your child's reading diary. If you are unable to access the internet at home please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you. The children in Year Two will be given login details so they can access Times Table Rock Stars. These will be set to encourage your child to learn the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times-tables.

Can we also remind you that their book bag and PE kit needs to be in school every day.

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please leave a message at the school office and we will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. Alternatively, you can include a note in your child's reading diary as these are checked daily by staff.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss D Johnston
Class teacher

Mrs S Harden
Cover Class teacher

