



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

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Dear Parents,



Learning in Goldfinch Class Summer Term 2023

Welcome back after the Easter holiday. I hope you all managed to have a restful break. Whilst writing this it is hard to believe we are now in the final term of the school year. I am incredibly proud of my class. They have returned as enthusiastic as ever to learn and are already enjoying our new topic!

During this term our topic is titled 'Time Travellers' and we will be learning about Castles. The question we will be looking to answer is, 'Were castles a good place to live?' The children have recorded their thoughts on this already and we shall be revisiting the question throughout the topic to see if their opinions have changed! I am really looking forward to taking the children out to visit Hedingham Castle. This has proved a successful visit in recent years and the children enjoy visiting a 'real' castle and learning more about what it was like to live in a castle! Details of our trip will be sent in a separate letter.

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 information texts, following our visit they will write a recount and finally the children will write diary entries when they will adopt the role of a castle resident!

Reading

I 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. Each time you record that your child has read to an adult at home, your child's diary is stamped. If your child reads 3 or more times a week they receive a star reading stamp. The stamps are awarded on Fridays. At the end of the term, those children that have received a star reader stamp every week will receive a special reading certificate to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work. On Friday the children select one of our 'Fantastic Friday' books for them to share with adults at home. 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 are given dedicated time to change their books.



Maths

Maths this term will focus on the four operations and place value. The children will further develop their geometry knowledge on 2-D and 3-D shapes. Within the measurement units, the children will work on telling the time, measuring capacity, temperature, length and height.

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 grouping and classifying animals and learning about what they need to survive and where they live.

The children are also looking forward to growing plants and putting all of their recent learning about bees to the test as we have entered a competition. Our task is s *'to create a bee haven for our little buzzy friends to feed, live and prosper.'* To enable us to do this I shall be running a gardening club at lunchtimes. The children will all be given the opportunity to help our garden grow. I will send a note home when it is your child's turn so they can bring in a spare change of clothes and their wellies. They will also work on identifying and naming a variety of plants including those within our school environment. They will answer the question: *What do seeds need to grow?*



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 holding a castle making day when the children have the dedicated time to create their vision using everyday junk modelling and then evaluating their creation. To help us do this we will ask for volunteers to come in and help. Details to follow

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 revisiting how to stay safe online, understanding the dangers and that children should seek help if necessary. The children will use technology to organise and present their learning in different ways.

In addition to this, they will use programs where they need to create a set of instructions to control a device, program movements of a character on screen and to achieve specific outcomes.

We are fortunate to have the 2 Johns join us on 23rd May and hope you are able to join them for a workshop for parents in the evening. More details to follow in the newsletter.



PSHEe

Health and Wellbeing

Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing

Why sleep is important; medicines and keeping healthy; keeping teeth healthy; managing feelings and asking for help.

Growing and Changing

Growing older; Moving Class or year.

Keeping Safe

Safety in different environments; risk and safety at home; emergencies

RE

This term the children will be learning about Special symbols and ways of living. This will include: to know Hindu celebrations and family life, to recognise and name familiar symbols and to know symbols and that some represent different religions. After the half-term break the children will learn about special ways of living in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Ms Middleton takes these sessions on a Thursday afternoon.

Music

Mrs Long teaches Music every Thursday morning.

French

This is taught on a Thursday morning.

Class Routines

Our PE days are **Mondays and Thursdays**, so children will need to bring their shorts, jogging trousers, a t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers on these days. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons and that long hair needs to be tied back every day please.

Please ensure your child has a spare pair of socks kept in their PE bag and that all PE kit is clearly named. It is helpful if the children have a spare bag, which they can put their PE shoes into after each lesson, particularly during these wet months.

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

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 continue to take place on Wednesday afternoons. Your child's allocated dates for this term were given in a separate letter.

All children have their spellings tested on **Fridays**. Spelling books are sent home on Fridays and need to be returned to school on a Monday morning. Common exception words are tested before the end of each half term but these will not be tested on the same day as the weekly spelling test. Year Twos are now tested on their times tables too every Friday.

This term, once every three weeks, the following tasks/challenges will be set.

A Athletics challenge will be set for your child, this will focus on consolidating and extending your child's current learning. Spelling task Y2 on Spelling Shed or Y1 have a phonics challenge on Bug Club. Maths game - the Y1 children take home a maths game which will reinforce different areas of the maths curriculum.



The children in Year Two have been given login details so they can access Times Table Rock Stars. They have been set to encourage your child to learn the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times-tables.

Mathletics Challenge Y1 & Y2
Phonics challenge on Bug Club Y1 only <i>Spelling Shed activity Y2 only</i>
Maths Game (Year Ones) <i>Times Tables Rock Stars challenge set. (Year Twos)</i>

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please leave a message at the school office and I will contact you as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can use our Class G e-mail, classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk which I check every day or include a note in your child's reading diary as these are checked daily by staff.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 3 rd May	Year 2 SATs information meeting 9:15
Tuesday 23 rd May	2 Johns Safeguarding workshops
Thursday 8 th June	Year 2 Mini Games
Friday 9 th June	Castle Making Day
Wednesday 21 st June	Classes G and F visit Hedingham Castle
Friday 23 rd June	Class Goldfinch Assembly to parents 2:45p.m.

Thank you for your continued support.

D Johnston

Miss D Johnston
Class teacher

