

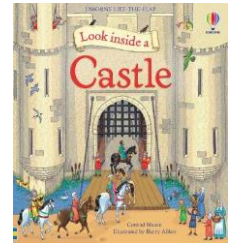
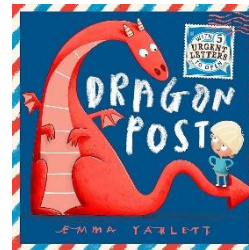
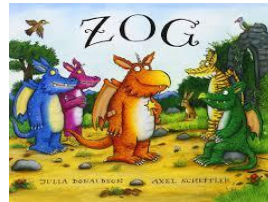
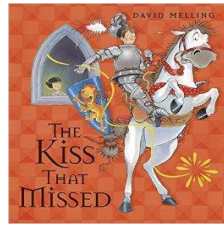
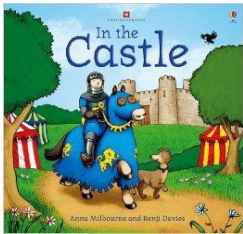
# Once upon a time...

Dear Parents,

We really hope you have a wonderful half-term break. We will start next term by sharing our half-term news and we are looking forward to hearing about how they spent their time. Our topic next term is 'Once upon a time'. We will be spending time learning about castles, knights, kings and queens. As part of this topic, we will look at non-fiction books and will be writing letters, posters and invitations. We are also hoping to visit a local castle

to enjoy exploring a real castle setting. We will be exploring different materials and how things are made, including the houses of the 'Three Little Pigs', constructing and investigating their states of matter.

Some of the texts we will be looking at are:



## Home Learning

### Reading

As per last term, your child will bring one Little Wandle book home each Wednesday. Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for 5 minutes.

It is important that the children bring their reading books and their reading record book **every day**. These are checked and their home reads are recorded to help us track progress. When reading with your child, please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by **signing and dating in the comments book**, or you may like to add a positive or helpful comment in the reading diary.

The sounds and the tricky words we are covering are outlined in the Little Wandle sheets that are provided in their reading folders/book bags. Please support your child by writing out the tricky words and practicing them as often as possible. Please also continue to practice the sound information sheets we have sent home. The most recent digraphs and trigraphs should be a priority. Instant recognition of these sounds leads to much more rapid fluency and the children feel excited by gaining that proficiency.



<b>Writing</b>	The children will continue to practice their letter formation. We are trying to encourage the children to become more independent writers, so I have attached a sound mat to allow them to use these at home if they are writing. Please encourage them to write in as many contexts as possible (cards to relatives/friends, shopping lists, signs around the house).
<b>Maths</b>	The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise <b>numbers to 10</b> . Please encourage the children to count their toys when playing and try to write and use numbers when appropriate at home.

### Key questions to ask your child at home:

Who lived in a castle?

How is living in a castle different to living in a house?

Who worked in a castle?

What job would you like to have done in the castle?



### Key vocabulary

Castle, knights, princesses, kings, queens, moat, drawbridge, jousting, banquet, portcullis, crenulations

### Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle and their book bags each day. They must also always have a coat, even if it is sunny first thing in the morning.
- If you would like to provide an afternoon snack for your child, this snack must be fruit/a healthy alternative, which they can eat in the afternoon if they choose to. We have fruit available for them, which we will be having towards the end of the afternoon in class, during story time.

Thank you for your support,  
Miss Taylor and Miss Waterman