

Once Upon a Time



What happens in Fairy Tale land?

Reception Term 3

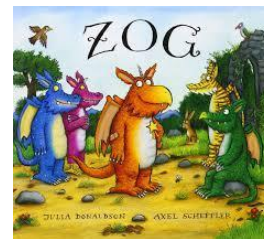
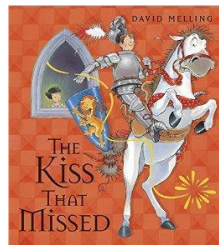
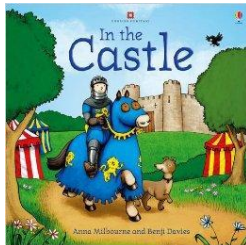


Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break!

We will be starting this New Year by revisiting rules and routines and discussing some of our New Year's resolutions. Our topic this term is 'Once upon a time' and 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 planning on enjoying a Royal Banquet with our friends. This term's learning will involve a mystery visitor in the classroom!

Some of the texts we will be looking at are:



Home Learning

A few reminders for the New Year.

Reading	Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for 5 minutes. It is really important that the children bring their book bags, yellow reading record and their reading book into school <u>every day</u> . When reading with your child, please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by <u>signing and dating in the comments book</u> , or you may like to add a positive or helpful comment in the reading diary. High frequency (tricky) words are in the children's tricky word envelopes, it's really useful to practice these each time you read.
Writing	The children will be practising their letter formation. We will have a go at writing with the letter families, curly caterpillar letters, ladder letters, one arm robots and zig-zag monsters. Please also help them to try to be independent and secure with their name writing.
Maths	The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise numbers to 10. Please encourage the children to count their toys when playing and try to write and use numbers when appropriate at home.
Home Creative Task	If you would like to, you could support the children to have a go at making their own knight's shield or princess' hat! You could use cardboard and decorate with paint, stickers, sequins or anything you choose. Think about designing a shield with your family name on, or a hat with a beautiful pattern or picture.

Key questions to ask your child at home:

Who lived in a castle?

Who worked in a castle?



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

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



Key vocabulary

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

Useful Websites

www.ictgames.co.uk and www.topmarks.co.uk for Literacy and Maths games.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk Phase 3 and 4 games, blending sounds and words.

If you wish to make games to have fun at home with learning, you can print from:

www.twinkl.co.uk and search Knights, Castles or Kings and Queens, to find games and activities to learn vocabulary and facts linked to the topic.

Please Help

We would love to construct some large castles out of large boxes and junk models. Please can you donate any LARGE boxes for us to construct with.

Forest School

This term it's our turn for weekly Forest School Sessions, the children will need a **full change of clothes** (not just an over layer) and welly boots, either kept in school or brought in every Tuesday. If you would like to help with forest school and have a school DBS please let us know.

Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle and their book bags each day. This should be filled with water only. The children are provided with a free fruit snack at school.
- Can the children please always have a coat in school especially during the winter months.
- Our PE days are Thursday and Friday. Please ensure your kits are in school for these days.
- Please can children not bring in toys or objects from home.



We hope you all enjoy sharing this learning journey with your children. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if necessary.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Whyte & Mrs Smith