



Once Upon a Time

What happens in Fairytale Land?



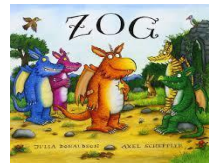
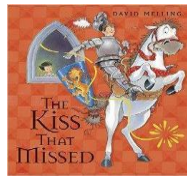
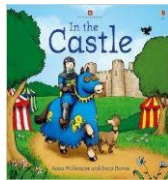
Reception Term 4

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We really hope you have had a wonderful half-term holiday.

We will be starting this term by sharing our half-term news and we cannot wait to find out what the children have been up to. Our topic this 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 Hever Castle to enjoy exploring a real castle setting.

Some of the texts we will be looking at are:



Home Learning

Reading	<p>As per last term, your child will bring two books of their current ability home each week. Please ensure these come back to school and remain in their book bags.</p> <p>Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for 5 minutes. It is really important that the children bring their reading books and their reading record book every day.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The sounds and the tricky words we are covering are outlined in the Little Wandle sheet that we stick into the homework book each week. Please support your child by writing out the tricky words and practicing them as soon as possible. Please also continue to practice the sound cards we have been sending 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 really excited by gaining that proficiency. The children's reading words they are focusing on will be assessed and changed every Monday. Reading books will be changed every Friday.</p>
Writing	<p>The children will continue to practice their letter formation. We will be trying to encourage the children to become more independent writers. They are really developing their ability to write in a phonetically plausible way (i.e. I am a reallee good righer) and it is essential that they are not corrected, but are encouraged to write in as many contexts as possible (cards to grandparents, shopping lists, signs around the house).</p>

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. If they are struggling with numeral recognition, do use the number cards we have sent home and put them on the stairs or around the house so that you can play 'spot the number.'

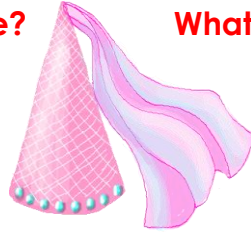
Key questions to ask your child at home:

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

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.

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. They must also always have a coat, even if it is sunny first thing in the morning.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs May and Mrs Healey