

'Do you need a castle to conquer?'



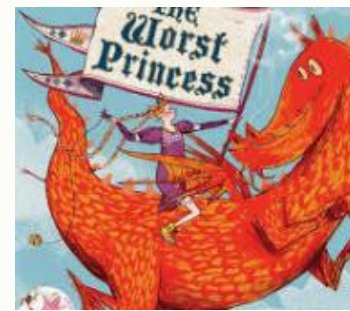
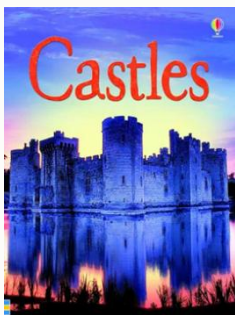
Year 1 and 2 newsletter Term 6 2025-2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely week. This term our topic is all about castles as we explore the big question: 'Do you need a castle to conquer?' This is a history-based topic learning about the castles and historical event in our local area, such as The Battle of Hastings and learning about local castles.

Some of the texts we will be using for our learning are:



If you would like a learning activity to complete at home this term with your child, you could choose from one of these example activities:

- **Build a Fortress:** Create a castle sculpture using recycled materials. Think about adding towers, drawbridges, or a moat!
- **Become a Castle Historian:** Research a famous real-life castle. Where is it located? Who lived there? Does it have any cool secrets or battles in its past?
- **Design a Knight's Shield:** Create a unique coat of arms, badge, or flag for your own imaginary castle or royal family.
- **Write a Castle Guide:** Create an informative guidebook or brochure for a castle you've visited or one you've learned about online.









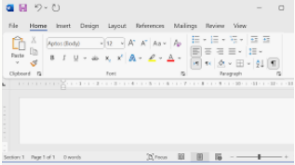




The learning map attached to this newsletter outlines the areas we will be learning about and some of the work we will be doing in teacher-focussed activities and group work.

Helping to enrich our topics

It is always great to have items that support our topic, so if anyone has any items that may help us with any of the work above that we could borrow, we would love to see them. We will have a topic-based 'show and tell' weekly on a Friday.

'Castles' Learning Map Term 6 2025-2026

What are we learning this term?

Literacy	 Leaflet writing	 Narrative writing	 Prediction
Maths	Time 	Mass, capacity, temperature  	Position and direction 
Science	Observe 	Materials 	Questioning 
History		The Battle of Hastings 	
Music		Listening, composing and performing	
ICT		Word processing	
PSHE		Growing and Changing	
Art		Sculptures	
RE		What makes some places sacred to believers?	 church  synagogue  mosque

Home Learning

Reading	<p>Please read with your child at least three times a week, even if it is just for 5 minutes. When reading with your child, please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by <u>recording this on Boom Reader.</u></p> <p>During reading sessions, please discuss the story with your child and ask them questions about what they are reading. These questions will help to develop their understanding of what they are reading as comprehension and discussion are key reading skills in Year 1 and 2.</p> <p>Chestnuts' class will have access to the library every day and can choose a book to come home with. This could be a book to read by themselves to go alongside their phonics reading book or by an adult. Using our library promotes a love of reading and choosing books that interest them.</p> <p>The reading and phonics books will be changed on a Friday. We aim to collect the folders in on a Wednesday.</p> <p>Please could year 2 children try to complete their units on Lexia every week. The units that need to be completed are the amount they need to be at the correct standard at the end of year 2 ready for year 3. Obviously, being at the required standard will give them a great advantage as they travel into KS2.</p> <p>The teacher's email for Lexia is office@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk or lexia@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk</p>
Phonics Year 1	<p>A weekly reading phonics sheet will come home on a Friday with the phonics and words they have covered during the week. We encourage the children to read this as well as their reading books to review the sounds and words they have read that week. These reads can also be logged on Boom reader.</p>
Maths	<p>For optional Maths activities, we are encouraging the children to learn to count in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's and then begin to learn their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.</p> <p>All year 2 have access to TT Rockstars. Please ask if you need any information.</p>

Useful information and reminders:

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a water bottle each day.
- Please ensure sun cream is applied before school now it is the summer term.
- Our PE days are Mondays and Fridays so please send your child into school in their PE kit on these days.

Snacks:

Just a quick reminder that the school does provide a healthy snack each day for the children. However, if you would prefer to send your child in with their own snack, please ensure it is **one healthy snack only** (such as fruit or vegetables) preferably nothing with plastic wrappers as Chestnuts are very passionate about their environment!

We hope you all have lovely term supporting the children in their learning. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support.
The Chestnuts Team