



'Once Upon a Time'

What happens in Fairytale Land?

Maple Class Term 4

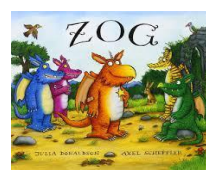
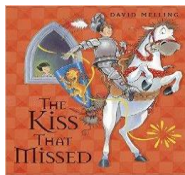
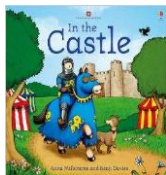


Dear Parents,

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 planning on enjoying a Royal Banquet with our friends.

Some of the texts we will be looking at are:



Home Learning

Reading	<p>As per last term, your child will bring one Little Wandle book home for an entire week and they will also be given the opportunity to take one other book home as often as they choose. We do encourage them to change this book, when it has been read either at home or at school.</p> <p>Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for 5 minutes.</p> <p>It is really important that the children bring their book bags, yellow reading record and their reading book into school 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 often as possible. Instant recognition of these words leads to much more rapid fluency and the children feel really excited by gaining that proficiency.</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 righter) 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). Please refer to the Little Wandle sound mats and tricky words to help support your child writing independently.</p>
Maths	<p>The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise numbers to 20. 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 teen numbers, do write out number cards and put them on the stairs or around the house so that you can play 'spot the number.'</p>
Home Creative Task	<p>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. Please bring the finished creations into school when it is convenient.</p>

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.



Some exciting news

We are very happy to announce that some eggs will be arriving in Maple Class on Monday 27th February. They will be kept in an incubator until they hatch! We will then have the chicks until the 10th March. This is always a hugely exciting time for Maple Class. If they choose to, the children will be able to hold the chicks and will take part in their care (changing food and water and cleaning out their home).

We will also be hosting a Class Assembly at 9.15 am on the 21st March. Please enter the school through the main door and sign in at the office. This will last about 15 minutes and the children will be telling you all about what they have been learning this term. You will have a chance to stay in the hall afterwards, to look at their learning journeys, with your child. This is a really special opportunity to share what they have been learning with them. If you are unable to be there, please don't worry. We will ensure that you can come in at another time.

We are currently planning to go on a class trip to Hever Castle, as this supports the term's learning so beautifully. The provisional date for this trip is Wednesday 22nd March. We will be asking parents to pick their children up from Hever, at 2.45, in order to allow enough time to get back to school, if necessary. We will be sending out a letter about the trip at the beginning of next term.

Quick Reminders

- Please ensure 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.
- Please ensure that your child has a full change of clothes (all named, in a named bag) that can be kept on their peg.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Boldero, Miss Munn, Mrs Higman and Miss Bews



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What are we learning this term?



<p>Literacy</p> 	<p>Stories and Non-fiction Texts Alternative versions of stories</p>  	<p>Labelling their work and WANTED posters</p>  
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Addition, Subtraction with numbers to 10</p> 	<p>Patterns and Measurement</p>  
<p>Expressive Art and Design</p> 	<p>Bear painting inspired by Linda Israel.</p> 	<p>Castle Themed Role Play & Construction</p> 
<p>Understanding the world</p> 	<p>Castles, Knights, princesses, royalty.</p> 	<p>Living in the past, old and new castles</p> 
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional</p> 	<p>Looking after one another.</p> 	<p>Playing games and taking turns</p> 
<p>Physical Development</p> 	<p>Fine motor skills - Threading and tying</p> 	<p>Healthy Me! Banquets</p> 
<p>Communication and Language</p> 	<p>Listening and Talking to</p> 	<p>Confidence to ask questions</p> 