



# RW Spring 2018



## Narrative

This term the topic is all about castles. Together we will be exploring lots of different aspects of Castles and asking lots of interesting questions.

We will be finding out what castles are made of, who built them and why, as well as thinking about why we don't live in castles today. The children will be building their own castles in lots of different ways, thinking how to make them strong and learning the vocabulary of lots of different parts of the castle. The children will find out what it was like to live in a castle and experience some of the different jobs that people used to do.

We plan to use our imaginations to tell stories about knights, princesses, dragons, giants and wizards, using some fairy tales to help us.

## Language and communication

In RW we are learning new vocabulary all the time. Our role play activities and small world play allow children to apply and experiment with new vocabulary and develop a narrative in their play. Early in reception, children tend to play alongside each other, engaged in a similar activity but playing their own game. This term, many of the children are learning to play together, developing their social language, explaining their ideas and negotiating a compromise! The learning environment is designed to promote and develop these essential skills.

## Reading and Phonics

We love books and stories! We have a story every day and we love it when the children bring in their favourite stories from home to read with the class. Some weeks our learning is based around a book or a story and there are always topic books available in our classroom.

This term we will be learning lots of new sounds, many of which are digraphs - two letters that make a sound. Some are consonant blends - ch / th / ng / sh, others are vowel blends, for example ai (like rain), ee (sheep), or (like fork). Each week the new sounds will be in the children's home and school books. Any queries, please come and ask!

Each week we will hear the children read and change their reading book, but you can change reading books as often as you like from the selection at the back of the classroom. **Please hear your children read at home as often as you can - a little every day would be the ideal!** Please write about your reading in the children's home and school books.

This term we will also be introducing "stay and read" on a Thursday morning. There will be lots of books available to share, many of which the children will be able to read for themselves. Please join us for a few minutes after drop off if you can.

## PE

PE is on Tuesdays. This term we are focusing on ball skills; throwing and catching. We will also be learning to climb safely, thinking about getting down as well as going up!

## Maths

This term we aim to get all the children confidently working with numbers up to 20. They will be able to recognise the numbers, order them and count that number of objects accurately. We will be learning to use the language of addition and subtraction, always using resources to support our learning. We will also be using the language of bigger than/smaller than to talk about numbers. We will be doing lots of problem solving and talking about our maths. We will be learning the names of some 2D and 3D shapes, using them to make and build. We will be measuring using our bodies, rulers, meter sticks and tape measures and using the water tray and sand to explore the idea of capacity.

## Writing

Our focus this term is to get the children writing independently. There will be an adult led writing activity each week, linked to our topic and the children's interests. We will be writing letters to the Queen, designing a very special pair of royal knickers (based on a great book called "The Queen's Knickers"), writing our own stories and making our own fairy tale books. All around the classroom are the letters and sounds the children need to support their writing and each week there will be a role play activity to support their writing, for example a post office or book making equipment. There will also be activities that the children are expected to do each day independently.

## Fine motor skills

There will be plenty of activities to develop children's fine motor skills this term. These will include threading, tweezers and chopsticks, cutting with scissors, painting, playdough and collage.