



Half Termly Topic Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 2

Topic: Our Castle



This half term we will be learning the following things. Here are also some useful hints and tips for helping at home!

	At School	At Home
English	In English, Year Two pupils will be encouraged to learn and write through a range of fiction and non-fiction texts including; Gingerbread Man and Meerkat Mail. During this half term, we will be looking at short stories to build more confidence in answering a range of retrieval and word meaning questions. This means children will use the text to find factual information to answer the question and developing their skill to skim and scan the text. In addition to this, children will be recapping phase 5 phonics, identifying the alternative spellings for the different short vowel sounds and applying their knowledge to practise reading and writing words containing these.	• Aim to hear your child read at least four times a week. • Read your child a book on a night. Promote a love of reading. • Continue to help children develop their phonetical knowledge.
Maths	In maths, pupils will be consolidating their learning around numbers to 100, whilst beginning to focus on addition and subtraction. Pupils will learn taught strategies to add and subtract through 10, alongside adding 3 addends together and exploring fact families within 20.	• To practice addition and subtraction within 20. • Count forwards and backwards starting from any number within 100. • To count in 2s, 5s and 10s.
Science	In Science, pupils will be investigating the topic 'Everyday Materials' and Leo Baekeland the inventor of plastic. Pupils will look at objects, and the materials that make them. Children will then use key scientific vocabulary to describe the properties of these materials. We will also have the opportunity to explore our topic by completing various experiments to test the suitability of materials.	• Talk about objects and what material it is made out of (plastic, metal etc.) and describe its properties (hard, durable). • Talk about what those properties mean and if it is a suitable material for the job.
History	In History, Year Two will be learning why castles have specific features and why we have Richmond Castle. We will look at historical sources such as drawings, pictures and documents to understand how the castle was used and changed over the years.	• Talk at home about Richmond Castle • Can the children, with help, find any fascinating facts about Richmond Castle?
Geography	In Geography, we will be looking at the wider community by conducting some field studies. We will be looking for human and physical features within our local area.	• Talk about physical and human features that you see when you are in the local area.
PE	In PE, our focus will be, 'Send and return. The class will participate in a range of fun, active, engaging lessons concentrating on a specific skill each lesson. We will be aiming to develop the fundamental skills from each lesson to develop and play a game of tennis at the end of the half term.	• Encourage your child to take part in daily physical exercise. • Encourage your child to control a ball around objects using different parts of their foot.

RE	In RE, pupils will be learning about the religion Judaism and what they believe. We will look at Jewish artefacts and symbols to learn more about what they believe. We will look at a range of Jewish festivals and identify what each member of the family has to do before, during and after the festival.	• Discuss different Jewish beliefs. • Ask your child to talk about what they have learnt.
Computer Science and IT	We will be looking at learning how to take images and the security around taking pictures this half term. We will also be looking at how to take pictures with lighting and other effects.	• Talk about rules around taking other peoples' pictures.
Online Safety	Children in Year 2 will learn how they can access amazing places online. They will use technology in school to access ICT lessons. During these lessons, children will be made aware of the rules they need to follow to remain safe while using the internet.	• Talk to your child about Online Safety and the rules in your home.
Personal, Social and Health Education	In PSHE, your child will look at families, how they are all different, what makes and good friendship and how to stay safe with friends at home and online. We will also look at naming parts of the body and the importance of keeping parts of our body private. To do this will be looking at lessons from the NSPCC Pantosaurus website. During these lessons, we will also discuss the names of the private parts of our body	• Talk to your child about how to stay safe at home and online with friendships.
Music	Our focus this half term is 'Being together in music'. Pupils will build on their experiences of singing together and learn about different types of choral singing. The focus of the block is to teach pupils that the voice is an instrument and how this can be controlled. Pupils will sing well-known songs and listen to different types of choral singing. They will revisit simple conducting cues and use the terms melody, lyrics, rhythm, pulse and dynamic.	• To listen to different types of music and discuss differences in how people use their voice to sing.
Personal Development	Our school has 6 virtues... kindness, bravery, stickability, coolness, respect and fairness. Each term we focus on a particular virtue – and this term is 'respect'. We work on understanding people and their different needs as well as looking out and after each other throughout the school day.	• Encourage children to listen to others and contribute to conversation. • To play games at home, making sure to take turns and being fair.