

Hello boys and girls!

I hope you are all well and having a fun time at home with your family. I am really looking forward to being at school and seeing you all again. Until then I have been thinking about all the things we would have been learning about in this new term. I know that we would have been going outside to do at least one hour of outdoor play so hopefully you can still do that as playing is so important to the way you learn.

Please do a little Mathematics and Literacy every day. I have included some topic work in this pack so I hope this will be a nice little change from the norm! I know I have sent you loads already and I've been getting pictures of you all working hard. Don't forget to go over the sounds you have already covered in school, ask your mum or dad to read a story to you at night and see if you can find any words that you know in the book. We have covered so much in the first two terms of school and I am really happy with the way you all are getting on, so keep going. If you or one of your siblings have a library card you can borrow ebooks to read yourself - how cool would that be? I will send your mum / dad a video of how to do this on see saw, so look out for that.

I have put some Maths in a file called Maths Spring P1. I know we may not have started adding on paper but we have done some during mental maths so have a go and if you find it too tricky don't worry we will do it when we go back to school. Just do what you can and that'll be perfect. Start with the 'one more and one less worksheets' and watch the powerpoint presentations to help you understand and this link to alphablocks is pretty good too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKPT5EaXUcA>

Remember these games we played at school? You can play them at home too...



Our new topic is 'Castles' and this is a really fun topic. I have found some very cool powerpoints about what castles are and there is information about some local castles on powerpoint too. You may have already visited one of these with your family on holidays.

The things that we would be learning about through this topic are:

1. Everything about a castle was built to keep the people inside safe. It is made up of many different parts, not just one building.
2. Castles are a type of **home** that was built to protect the people inside. People who lived in the castle included lords, who were in charge, as well as soldiers to defend it from enemy invaders, and even cooks and cleaners to keep everyone fed and tidy up. They could be very crowded places to live.
3. The main building inside the castle is the keep, which was protected by walls and towers.
4. Some of the first castles were made from wood before they were built from stone. Stone is a longer-lasting material, and more difficult for attackers to break down.
5. Castles weren't very warm inside - they could be really damp and drafty.
6. Castles were only as good as their defences - these included ramparts, bastions and arrow loops. Maybe you will do some research and find out what these are!

I have been thinking about what you could do at home that will help you to learn lots about the topic and I have come up with a few little ideas below. Please do not feel under pressure to complete all the activities and remember that the learning opportunities we share are **recommended activities only**.

- See BBC video clips of **Barnaby Bear visiting a castle** and **going to Edinburgh Castle** (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zqr4d2p>)

- Ask your mum or dad to read the [English Heritage kids' magazine about castles](#) to you as it has some interesting information inside (see enclosed in this pack).
- Print off and make some 2D [castle pictures](#). Can you remember the names of all the shapes?
- A step-by-step guide to [designing a cardboard castle](#)
 - (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/guide-to-castles/cardboard-castle/>)
- [Create your own coat of arms](#) (template enclosed).
- [Dress an online knight in his armour](#), ready for a joust!
<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/index.html> Click on topic and then 'dress the knight'
- Make a [cardboard sword](#), a [cardboard shield](#), or a [cardboard helmet](#) with English Heritage's guides.
- Make a tasty 'Medieval Castle Pie' - follow the recipe enclosed!

In literacy we would have been sharing books about castles and fairytale books with castles in them so I have included some stories for you and your parents to share together. Some are on Cbeebies Storytime online if you would like to check these out. There are lots more on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7rtIXfc1zA> (Rumpelstiltskin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGLg5khGlis> (The Princess and the Pea)



You can talk about how the castles in these stories are different from the real castles you will learn about. Jack and the Beanstalk is an excellent story and

you will see the great big castle in which the giant lived. There is a sentence building task about Jack and the Beanstalk which you could do with some help from an adult. You can retell the story using the stick puppets too. There are also some worksheets which are good for revising cvc words. Remember practicing reading a little bit everyday will help (blending cvc words, reading tricky words etc.)

These are the reading books I have found on NI library (online)... I will send your mum and dad information about how to access this through a video via see saw. I know you might find them tricky as we haven't read them together but give them a go! Here's a selection below...



There are lots more in the library and also more challenging ones if you pick 'Step 2' and 'Step 3' books.

Here are some books you might be able to borrow from the library about our topic too.



Most of all, please remember to be kind to your family and listen to your parents especially when they ask you to do things. Keep your bedroom tidy, say your morning and night prayers and keep being the lovely little child that you are. May is the month of Mary and I have included a Powerpoint about Mary Our Mother and a colouring in worksheet. You could try to learn the 'Hail Mary' and you might even want to make a May altar in your home.

I am thinking about you loads, each and every one of you! We will be back together soon!

Mrs. McKay