

# ***Love Learning, Love Life Always Aiming High***

## **Welcome to Reception Class!**

Teacher – Mrs. Roberts

Teaching Assistant – Miss. Gibson

This term our topic is 'Castles, Knights and Princesses'. We have chosen this topic because in the first term many children enjoyed role playing as princesses and knights in their child initiated play or making castles with the blocks. We wanted to use this active engagement in the topic to exploit an interest in reading.

An area of learning that we also need to work on this term is 'Understanding the World'. We will be focussing on the following outcomes-

- Knows some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family
- Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time
- Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world
- Talks about why things happen and how things work

In school we will conduct a series of experiments in order to work on these outcomes. For example, we will leave an apple on the shelf and observe the changes over time. We will take two near identical plants, leave one in a shaded area, not watering it and place one in the sunlight, watering it regularly. The children will again observe the changes over time and take photographs each day. We will encourage the children to talk about the experiments, making predictions, asking questions and discussing the changes.

Ways to help at home-

- Talk as much as possible! Talk about family, friends, where you live, what your child likes and dislikes, what they are good at, their hobbies, your hobbies, anything and everything! Share feelings, thoughts and opinions. If children are confident to talk and when they are ready to write, their ideas will simply flow.
- When reading at home ask as many 'why' and 'how' questions as possible in order to extend their thinking. 'Why do you think she did that?' How is he feeling? But how do you know?
- Question why things happen and how things work. Have discussions about all things big and small- from 'what do you fancy for tea?' to 'why do you think fish can't live on land?'
- Talk about the importance of our similarities and differences- that we may like different things, have different skills and look different to each other but that it is those differences that make us special.

**Many thanks for your continued support and if you ever have any questions please feel free to ask.  
Mrs. Roberts and Miss. Gibson**

Love Learning, Love Life



Always Aiming High

Year: Reception  
Learning Letter  
Spring 1 2017



*Knights, Princesses and  
Castles*



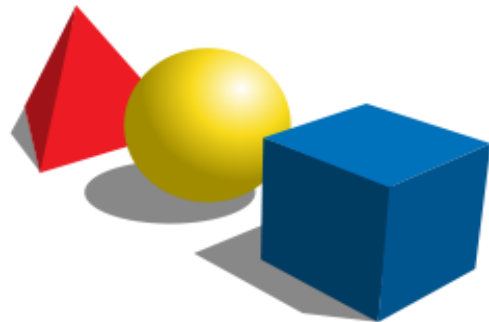
## Communication and Language

### Literacy

- Set 1 and set 2 sounds (Read, Write, Inc)
- Capital letters / letter names
- Tricky Words – I, my, to, the, me, of, we, she
- Individual Reading and Guided Reading
- Fiction books and Non-Fiction texts about 'Castles, Knights and Princesses.'
- Reading words and sentences with increased confidence
- Writing captions and short sentences using their phonic knowledge.

### Understanding the World

- Learning about castles and their features i.e. drawbridge, arrow slots, moat etc.
- Comparing the lives of people that lived in castles long ago, to the homes of people today.
- Learning about where in the world our friends and family were born.
- R.E- Special objects and places



### Mathematics

- 2D and 3D shapes and their properties
- Numbers to 20 and beyond (counting, recognition, formation, ordering)
- One more and one less than a given number to 20
- Using familiar objects and common shapes to build models of castles

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learning about and respecting the difference and diversity in our school.
- Philosophy for Children (P4C)  
Different families, children in charge, can dragons and knights be friends?
- Conflict resolution
- Showing sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others



### Expressive Arts and Design

- Using junk modelling and clay to design and make models of castles
- Creating coats of arms and family crests
- Materials collage
- Cutting and Sticking
- Observational drawing and painting
- Music
- Singing and dancing
- Castle role play



### Physical Development

- Gymnastics
- Finger Gym- Fine Motor Skills
- Learning about the importance of exercise, a healthy diet, sleep and good hygiene.
- Safety routines
- Team sports and cooperative games



