

Some of the questions we hope to answer this term

- when were the first castles built?
- where would you build a castle?
- how would you protect your castle?
- dragons—fact or fiction?
- why is there a castle in Arundel?

Please ensure your child is reading five times a week and returning their reading record, to be checked every **Friday morning**. If you have heard your child read, please remember to sign/initial their reading record. This will be recorded to monitor home reading and support work done in class.

At the beginning of the week, please ensure your child has the correct PE kit and footwear. Long hair needs to be tied up and studs should be taken out or covered with tape supplied from home (for the first six weeks of piercing). Due to the unpredictable weather in the Spring term, children may wear plain black tracksuit bottoms. Their kit should remain in school all week.

Homework is set on **Fridays** and needs to be handed in the following **Thursday**. This homework is important to consolidate the learning the children have done in class. If your child wishes to complete their work as a power-point, please send to the following email - this is for homework only.

Y3Homework@courtlanejnr.portsmouth.sch.uk

Remember to help your child practise their spellings at home every week to develop their writing.

As part of their homework, we are asking the children to practice their times tables using Times Table Rockstars. If your child is having problems logging on or practicing at home, they can go to Times Table Rockstars club at lunchtimes on **Monday, and Wednesday**.

If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher:

Williams—Miss E Kelly (Year Lead)

Dahl - Miss E Clark

Donaldson—Miss A Quade (Mon-Wed) / Miss P Mangat (Thurs/Fri)

Kinney—Mr D Recchia

Year 3 Spring Term 2

Our Learning Journey is ...



Castles— Love them or lose them?

This half term and into the beginning of the summer, we will be historians, geographers and designers – investigating castles.

On our launch day, we will have a day solving problems to escape from a dungeon, designing our own coat of arms and learning facts about castles.

As part of our geographical studies, we will be castle designers who need to build a new castle. This will involve looking at various landscapes and deciding the best place and explaining why.

The historical focus will be on when castles were first built and why they were needed in these periods of time. We will also look at Arundel and why the castle was built there.

In English, we will be writing non-fiction about castles and writing creatively about dragons. Using this research we will create dragon eyes in clay.



In Maths, we will be exploring statistics and starting to investigate fractions.

In Science, we will be investigating using our STEM skills—The River Wild.

We will also consider how to keep our castle safe by making drawbridges in design technology.

To celebrate the end of our work on Castles we will be visiting Arundel Castle and having a tour. This trip will happen at the beginning of the Summer term. A letter will be sent out nearer the time explaining the trip in more detail and the cost.

Also during this half term, we will have another Pause Week, wk. beginning 2nd March—this time focusing on Literacy.

World Book Day—dressing up as an animal from a book or a book character—5th March 2020.

You might like to join in our Journey at home by...

Reading

- Information books on Castles
- 'If you were a kid in a medieval castle' by J.Gregory
- Horrible Histories—Cracking Castles
- What were castles for? Usborne books
- Stories about dragons
- Stories about castles
- Poems about dragons

Watching

- Child friendly You Tube programmes on castles
- TV programmes or films about castle settings or about dragons

Doing

- Drawing pictures of castles or dragons
- Writing an adventure story set in a castle or involving a dragon
- Making a model of a castle
- Research on BBC or similar websites

Visiting

- The library to research these countries
- Child friendly websites e.g. National Geographic for Kids, Newsround

Phonics

At Court Lane Junior School, we believe it is vital that our children continue to use their phonics knowledge to read and write. This is revisited in class alongside learning weekly spelling rules and developing comprehension in reading. In class, the children are reminded to use their phonics knowledge to read and spell unknown words. Therefore, when reading and writing with your children, please encourage them to use their phonics knowledge. Here are some useful links to help with remembering the sounds:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ChildrensMenu.htm>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>