

## Newsletter - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

### Our News

The children have been really enthused about the recent topics of dragons and knights. They were very lucky to have a visit by Arthur's dad Nibby who is an illustrator. They were very interested in listening to what his job entails and to see some of his work. The children enjoyed thinking of some interesting questions to ask him. They were able to work in groups to think of describing their own dragon and then Nibby was able to draw it for them. A big thank you for coming to visit us! It has also been lovely to see all of the amazing things that the children have been making at home related to our topic. They love bringing them in and talking about them with their friends! The children were also very excited over the last few weeks to explore the icy, frosty and snowy weather and to warm up again afterwards with hot chocolate!

Thank you for all of the cakes that were sent in today for our Fairy Cake Friday.



### STARS OF THE WEEK



Jake Edwards for being a super Carleton child and role model to others and Cruz Hobbs for his enthusiasm for completing challenges and the topic of knights and dragons.

Phoebe Peters for improved confidence in reading at home and school and Aiden Gallagher for setting a high example to others when completing challenges.

### Little Chicks

We have been...

- Enjoying listening to different dragon themed stories
- Making our own dragons
- Finding different shapes around us
- Drawing castles with chalks and other mark-making tools
- Designing shields, ready to make our own

### Ducklings

We have been...

- Enjoying reading different dragon-themed stories as well as information books about knights
- Recalling different facts about the life of a knight and writing letters to a king and queen to apply for the job of a knight!
- Designing and starting to create their own shields and swords
- Investigating the best place to put a knight to free them from a frozen trap and exploring which materials are made of metal, like armour and to find out if they are all magnetic or not
- Sorting different coins, making and counting different amounts and using money to help solve shopping problems
- In Phonics we have been learning the phonemes zz, qu, sh, ch and th and practising handwriting them cursively and blending to read words with them in. We have also been practising reading and writing the tricky words he, she, we, me and be



## Our Learning

Over the next few weeks we plan to find out more about castles, how they were built, their different parts, who lived in them and what jobs they did. We will investigate making towers and drawbridges that are strong and up to the job! We will make our own information books about castles.

Next week it is Chinese new year so we will decorate the home corner ready for this celebration and find out who celebrates it, how and why. We hope to have a little food tasting session with Chinese food on Tuesday. This will consist of fried rice, noodles, prawn crackers and sweet chilli dipping sauce. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child and food allergies. Thanks.

The children have also been interested to know if princes and princesses are real, so we are going to find out more about the British royal family.

We hope to have a special day to end our topic on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February, a knights, princes and princesses day with lots of fun activities. The children will be able to come dressed up on this day, so we wanted to give you plenty of notice to get your costumes together! We want to have a jousting tournament on this special day (with foam javelins!!) please let us know if you have any hobby horses that we could borrow! We would also like to bake some fairy cakes for our banquet, so once again please see your child's teacher if you have any allergy concerns.



## Reminders

### BLOG

Have a look together at the blog on the school website to find out more about learning in school each day. It would be lovely if you could leave a comment together too!

### Spare Clothes

Please can any clothes borrowed from school be returned once washed? If you are having a clear out at home we are always in need of spare socks and underwear. It is also very useful during the winter months to put spare socks or tights in their book bags.

### Ducklings' School Trip

Our trip to Clitheroe Castle is still planned to go ahead and a letter regarding this will be sent out early next week. Please let your child's class teacher know if you would be able to come and help on the trip, although we are limited to the number of places on the coach.

### All About Me Booklets

Please can these booklets be returned to school by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at the very latest?

### Names in Clothes

Please put names on all clothing items, especially gloves, hats and scarves.

### Hobby Horses

Please could we borrow any hobby horses that you might have at home for our special day?

Many thanks.

## How can you help at home?

### Little Chicks

Have a shape hunt whilst out and about and send in any photos! Who can find the most different shapes? Bring in a knight, princess or prince story to share with the class

## Ducklings

### Talk for Mathematics

Draw and write your own knight, princess or castle themed subtraction stories, such as - 9 knights rode off on their horses, 2 fell off. How many are left?  $9-2=7$

Play skittles. How many did you have to begin with? How many knocked down? How many are left? Write the number sentence.

Practise counting forwards and backwards from 20.

Get a grown up to count forwards and backwards and make a mistake! Can you say which number you have missed out?

Count out some objects/toys at home. Ask your child to count them then tell them you are going to take some away.

Count the ones taken away and the total of toys left. Verbally say the number sentence, e.g.  $3 - 2 = 1$

Find 1 less than a group of objects or a given number.

[www.ictgames.com/numeracy](http://www.ictgames.com/numeracy)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

### **Talk for Reading and Writing**

Practise the phonics flashcards and tricky word games.

Write sentences with the tricky words in or look for them in your reading books.

Explore a non-fiction book or use the internet to find out more about castles together.

Draw and label a castle

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.ictgames.com/literacy](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy)

[www.phonicsbloom.co.uk](http://www.phonicsbloom.co.uk)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

### **Talk for topic**

Create a junk model castle/Make your own knight's shield, helmet or sword

Can you find out about the British royal family? Bring in some pictures or facts that you have found out about them.

Look at pictures of different castles using your iPad or a computer.

Help to make your costume for our special day!



### **Dates for your diary:**

#### **Mathematics in the Ducklings' Class**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 9 - 9.30am in Brown Ducklings' classroom.

Come and have a coffee and find out about the mathematics that your child is learning in school.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Knights, Princes and Princesses day for Ducklings and Little Chicks

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Ducklings' proposed trip to Clitheroe Castle - all day

School closes at 3.30pm for Half-Term

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm

Our next newsletter will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February and will give details about all the fun activities we have planned for the next two weeks.

Any questions please don't hesitate to ring, email or come and see us.

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