



Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
Communication & Language	This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through carpet session, story sessions and through partner work. We have been exploring 'Active Listening' during our MyHappyMind sessions and we will be asking the children to use these skills as we work together. We will be exploring a variety of key texts during the half term, both fiction and non-fiction. We will be encouraging the children to make predictions for the story, using adjectives to describe different elements in stories, e.g. the setting, the characters etc. We will be exploring new vocabulary linked to our theme – castle, moat, drawbridge, portcullis, armour, shield, turrets, knights, medieval, mythical creatures, village, countryside etc.	Mathematics	Nursery – We will be continuing our daily maths sessions following the White Rose Maths Scheme. This half term we will be focussing on practically exploring 'one more' and 'one less', exploring the composition of numbers from zero to five, 2D shapes and finding, recognising, subitising and representing numbers from zero to five. Reception – We will continue our daily maths sessions following the NCETM scheme. This half term we will be focussing on cardinality, ordinality and counting including; counting things that cannot be seen, counting rules, counting larger sets, subitising, using tens frames and the composition of numbers.
Physical Development	We will be continuing to focus upon develop the children's fine and gross motor skills through our Dough Disco, Wiggle me into a Squiggler and Squiggle while you Wiggle sessions and through different activities linked to our theme. We will be continuing with Nursery's regular 'name writing and mark making' practice (just for short periods of time throughout the week) and Nursery will continue to access the wider school grounds for large scale movements and opportunities to access wheeled bikes, trikes, cars and scooters. For Reception children, our PE focus will continue to be 'Throw, send catch receive.' We will then lead onto 'Athletics and Mini Games.' We will be encouraging the children to continue to practice their letter formation and handwriting alongside fine motor activities to develop precision and control.	Understanding the World	We will continue to look at changes in our environment and discuss them. We will be discussing/learning lots more about Castles around the country and some historical facts about them. We will also look at different 'villages' (linking with the village setting in our story) and talking about similarities and differences between villages and our local area. We will also spend some time researching the Royal Family and the castles and buildings they live and work in.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will continue with circle time activities, modelling positive behaviours/friendships and discussing different aspects of our feelings. We will continue to explore our three school rules in more detail – Ready, Respectful & Safe and continue to use our daily 'Recognition Board.' We will be continuing with our 'MyHappyMind' sessions. We will continue to build on our existing knowledge about 'happy breathing', showing gratitude for others, our experiences and ourselves and our character strengths. We will further explore friendships, how to be a good friend, how to get along with others, active listening and handling emotions and how our friends can make us feel.	Expressive Arts & Design	We will be experimenting with different materials and creative techniques this half term. We will be painting portraits, constructing and joining resources and materials, collaging, constructing flower crowns (May is the Month of Mary) and we will continue to explore a variety of musical instruments and how we can play them.
Literacy	We will be exploring lots of key texts (Fiction and non-fiction) during this half term linked to our theme. We will be talking about stories, the characters, settings and making comparisons. We will also be focussing on learning lots of new words and terms linked to our theme. We will be exploring different mark making and writing opportunities this half term linked to our theme e.g. setting descriptions, writing about characters, labelling diagrams. Nursery children will begin the Read Write Inc Nursery Phonics Scheme which will involve a daily focussed phonics session, initially consisting of learning the 'pictures' linked to the letters in the scheme. More information and details to follow. Reception children will continue with their daily RWI Phonics sessions – links to the RWI Virtual Classroom sessions to support the daily lesson added to Tapestry weekly.	RE	In our Religion work this half term we will be finding out about what happens after Jesus' Resurrection. We will share Scriptural accounts of Jesus' Ascension, the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the early community that was formed and is now called the Early Church. We will go on to learn about modern Christianity, explore what happens in Church and make links between Christian beliefs and showing care for others.