

St Thomas More R.C. Primary - Reception Class  
What I am Learning - Summer 1: Knights and Castles  
 Text: Hector and the Big, Bad Knight

Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
<b>Communication and Language</b>	This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through circle time activities, story sessions and through partner work. We will be discussing many different elements of our text 'Hector and The Big Bad Knight' and we will be making predictions for the story, using adjectives to describe different elements in the story, e.g. the setting, the characters etc. Linking with our 'Castles and Knights' topic, we will be asking lots of 'how' and 'why' questions and encouraging the children to do the same.	<b>Mathematics</b>	In our Maths work, we will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes and discussing their properties. We will be using shapes to create pictures, models and structures and we will go on a shape hunt around our school grounds. We will also be working on doubling and halving numerals (to 10), using practical resources to support our work.
<b>Physical Development</b>	We will be continuing to focus on developing the children's fine and gross motor skills through different activities. In our phonics groups, we will continue to practise letter formation on a daily basis. In PE this half term, we will be focussing on 'Mini Skills and Team Games' which involves developing the different elements of a team task and encourages the children to work collaboratively as part of team.	<b>Understanding the World</b>	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 spend some time during the half term to find out about Queen Elizabeth II in preparation for the Platinum Jubilee in June.
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b>	We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will be encouraging the children to access different classroom areas and talk about why they prefer some activities to others. We are also encouraging the children to take more responsibility in resolving problems independently. Through our RE work, we will be exploring Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, the Good News and how we are all friends of Jesus.	<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	We will be experimenting with different materials and creative techniques this half term. We will be painting pictures in the form of 'Still Life.' We also plan to explore different paint techniques to achieve different textures like the long, tangled weeds in our new story. In Music, the children will be creating music using the instruments independently, with a partner or in a small group. We will be encouraging the children to adapt and make changes to the music they have created.
<b>Literacy</b>	We will be sharing stories/ books related to our topic and we will be encouraging the children to listen and respond appropriately. Our text this half term 'Hector and the Big Bad Knight' provides a variety of writing opportunities – WANTED signs/notices, setting descriptions and writing plans. We will also explore and share 'traditional tales' and discuss these. Our phonics groups will continue on a daily basis and these sessions will begin to last a little longer as the children are progressing through the phonics scheme.	<b>Outdoor Provision</b>	We will continue to access our outdoor area on a daily basis. Our provision includes; sand, water, reading area, small world, construction, writing and mark making and role play areas. Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing as we access the outdoor area throughout each day.

\*When working on our text, we always try to select a story that the children may not have seen before we do not read the whole story initially. We work on the text over the course of the half term, and unpick each section, our focussed activities and challenges are based upon the part of the story we are working on to keep an element of surprise and suspense. If you do wish to read the story at home with your child, please could you do so once we have completed our topic and text work, thank you.