

Dear Parents

Over the next six weeks our class will be thinking about the whole school question of 'What's all the Fuss?' Focussing on understanding the lives of significant individuals, investigating and interpreting the past and understanding chronology by using historical language.

We will be studying different subjects which will be linked with the theme 'Long, Long Ago'. In this way we believe that the children will gain a greater understanding of the world around us and why learning is important to us all if we are to become responsible and independent learners.

If children understand why they need to learn something and see its relevance to their own lives not only will they actively enjoy their learning but also they will achieve higher standards in their work than if they see no point in their learning.

Each theme is based around the specific National Curriculum (NC) and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Skills that are needed to be mastered by our children and during this six week theme of 'Long, Long Ago' we will be covering the NC and EYFS Skills in Literacy, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art and Design. Below is an outline of what the children will be learning about:

Literacy	Story map of Jack and the beanstalk. Character descriptions of main characters Read and listen to a range of different versions of the traditional story. Compare and contrast the <b>features of the different stories</b> . Receive a letter from Jack &/or the Giant. Write a letter in response. <b>Speech Bubbles</b> . - Write a new rhyme in the style of Fee Fi Fo Fum. Change initial letter - Bee, Bi, Bo Bum. <b>Story starters</b> , openers, descriptive words, exciting vocabulary. Shared and guided writing opportunities. Use close procedure on the text in order for the children to read for meaning. <b>Instructional writing</b> for how to grow a bean plant. Link to science. Focus on a range of verbs, use pictures, plant own beans. Make a class book about the story - children paint pictures of the characters and write a short sentence/description.
Maths	Compare lengths and heights, Measure Length, Introduce weight and mass Measure Mass, Compare Mass, Introduce capacity and Volume Measure capacity, Compare capacity Recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.
Science	Observe and interact with living things with increased attention. - Mini-beast hunt around the school grounds. Know some things are alive and some are not alive. Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited. Identifying Mini beast habitats - cut and stick. Locating the habitats of mini beasts in our grounds. - Why are they suited for them? Describe how different habitats provide for basic needs of different animals.
History Geography	Learn about castle's defence and castle features. Labelling the castle features. Making a moat with tin foil Learn about Knights. - Split pin knights, their jobs, jousting, Motte and Bailey Castles - Stansted Mountfitchet. - Look into its history. Who lived in a castle? Use the internet to research the history of Hedingham Castle. Did any Kings or Queens live there? Can we create a timeline to put on display in our classroom?
Art and Design	Introduce the artist Paul Klee and his work - 'Castle and the Sun'. Look closely at the shapes, colours, and objects they can see. Using Whiteboards, take a dot for a walk around their whiteboards. What did they create? What can they see? Transfer this activity to paper and use <b>oil pastels</b> to colour in the different shapes. Taking inspiration from Paul Klee, and his Castles and the Sun image to make our own art piece. Using their designs from previous lesson, children are introduced to the art of <b>block printing</b> .

Every child will experience a variety of different ways of learning including reading, writing, mathematics, problem solving, illustrating, working independently and working collaboratively and their progress towards the NC and EYFS Skills will be continually assessed again in a variety of ways.

I know that as parents you are keen to support your child in their learning and would ask that you talk to your child about what they are learning during this theme – let them teach you!

I would be very grateful if you could spend some time completing the phonics and spelling homework, and if anyone has anything they think might be of interest to our topic or experience and knowledge please let me know as soon as possible, as the more information and support that your child has, the more successful their learning will be. I would like to thank you all for your support with your children's learning - it really does make a difference. If anyone has any questions as to how to help your child please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely  
Miss S Houghton – Class Teacher

