History As our main topic is Knights and Castles, we will be exploring castles throughout history and their location within the UK. We will identify key features of castles, and explore what life was like for the people who lived in them. *At home, you could look at pictures of castles and talk about what life might have been like a long time ago.*	**Handwriting** This half term the children will be beginning to develop our handwriting. We will practice our individual letter formation. This half term we will also be working on our number formation.

Design and Technology

We will be taking part in a Design and Technology week this half term, where we will be exploring catapults and designing, making and evaluating our own!

Science

Our learning in Science will involving finding out about Materials. We will be distinguishing between objects and the materials from which they are made, as well as looking at the uses of common materials. We will test a range of materials to find out which ones are suitable for different purposes.

At home, you could go on an autumn walk and collect leaves. Talk about different materials around your home.

Home Learning

Please listen to your child read 5 times a week at home, making sure Reading Records are completed and returned to school daily. Reading books will be changed weekly, once your child has read two or three times.

Library

We will visit the library on a Friday afternoon. Please send library books back to school to get a new book.😊

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter to Parents

Autumn 1 2026

Topic: Knights and Castles!



Miss Whysall

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this leaflet is useful in showing you what your children will be learning in school and the activities you could do at home to support their learning. Our class topic this half term is Knights and Castles, so most learning will relate to this. I'm looking forward to meeting you all.

Miss Whysall 😊

English	**Maths**
This half term we will be focusing on texts linked to our 'Knights and Castles' topic, which will include Knights and Castles, Unite!, Castles, and The Knight who Wouldn't Fight. The children will be working on using their sounds to help them write down words, as well as forming sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will be sharing a range of texts, as well as using these as a model to write our own stories. *At home, you could read a story together and encourage your child to make up their own castle adventure.*	In Maths, our main focus will be number. We will be counting to ten and beyond, by rote and with objects. We will also be representing numbers in different ways – showing them on our fingers, writing them as numerals, as words, drawing pictures and making them using objects. After this we will move on to addition and subtraction, as well as saying one more and less and ordering numbers. *At home, you could practise counting, recognising numbers and practise number formation.*

PE	**Art**
This term on Wednesdays we have a session with Derbyshire Cricket. Our indoor PE will be yoga, on Friday afternoons. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school at all times, including clothing suitable for being outdoors. It is also really important that each child's items are named. *At home, you could practise throwing and catching a ball or try some simple yoga stretches together.*	This half term we will be focusing on the work of Paul Klee, in particular the picture of 'Castle and Sun'. We will explore a range of colours and shapes, and also use shapes to make a picture of our own, inspired by the work of Paul Klee. *At home, you could draw or paint your own castle using different shapes and colours.* **PSHE** This half term our focus for PSHE is: Me and my Relationships We will explore: Feelings Getting help Classroom rules *At home, you could talk about feelings and what makes a good friend.*

Please could we ask for a contribution of £5 topic money per half term. It's a great help and allows the children to take part in more enriching activities 😊