



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a relaxing break from school. I trust you are ready, like me, to start the New Year back in full health! May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your very generous gifts and Christmas cards.

Heron Class really did enjoy their day with the Toy Museum in December, please see the school website for photographs of the day. This half term we have lots of exciting activities planned and I am sure the time will simply fly by. Our topic this half term is 'Turrets and Towers.'

We will begin by looking at life in a castle, discovering parts of a castle and why they were built that way. We will identify the materials castles are made from and how building materials have changed over time. We will investigate and describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. We can then compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. Our maths this term will take us beyond 20 to work with numbers within 50, using addition, subtraction, reasoning and problem solving. Times tables will be a regular feature of our maths lessons now, so please do practise at home, Mathletics is a great way to encourage your child to work at the appropriate level for their age whilst still having fun. We do ask that you use this resource regularly at home as the school pays an annual subscription for this service.

The whole class will read together core texts written by the authors Janet and Allan Ahlberg. These texts include, Each Peach Pear Plum, Funnybones and the Jolly Postman. By reading together we will ensure everyone has access to the same information and every learner will be able to join in the discussions regarding key skills such as retrieval, interpretation and choice. There will be ample opportunity to share non-fiction texts relating to castles, if you have any good books at home that you would like to share please do not hesitate to bring them into school. We will continue to group children across several classes for phonic lessons. This will ensure each child has access to reading material at the appropriate level, so each child is able to use their decoding skills accurately to make good progress. Please look out for the red and green spellings, these link to your child's reading book, and will be coming home in book bags each week. Later in the year all Year 1 children will take a phonic screening check to assess their development. I know you will all continue to support your child's learning in this area through regular spellings and Spellodrome please aim for 1000 points each week to generate a certificate.

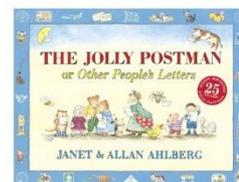
If you have any concerns or queries do not hesitate to speak to me.

Useful websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

[http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>



Please ensure you child has a kit in school at all times and with winter weather please pack jogging bottoms and a jumper. PE lessons take place on Tuesday and Friday during this half term.

Thank you for the continued support you provide to your child's understanding and creativity of the topics we cover, I am always impressed by the quality of the work in the home learning journals. If you have any artefacts or books to share please bring them in to share with the class. Spellings will be sent home every Tuesday, these will be taught during the week in phonic groups and tested every Monday. Please ensure you practice at home as spelling is a vital skill. In addition, please ensure you check how your child is getting on regularly as we have very high expectations in their spelling skills. Please remember to read a little every day and sign your reading record each week.

We look forward to discovering more about 'Turrets and Towers' in Heron Class and sharing our learning as the term progresses.

