



Dear Peacock families,

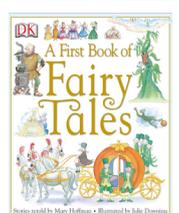
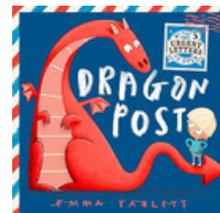
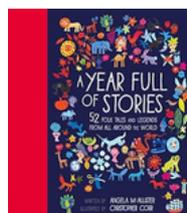
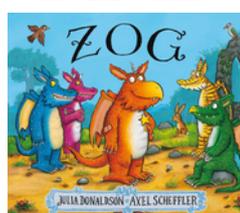
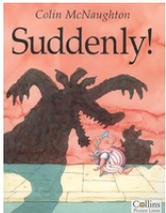
Thank you for all your continued support this year. The children are doing marvellously with their Phonics, Writing and Mathematics. Our next topic is 'Once Upon A Time'. We will start by looking at a variety of Traditional tales and alternative versions of these classic stories. We will also be looking at stories from around the world and learning more about castles and the people who built them and lived there.

As part of this topic, we will look at many fiction and non-fiction texts and will be writing letters, posters and our own stories.

In science, we will be exploring different materials and how things are made, including the houses of the 'Three Little Pigs', constructing and investigating the material properties.

Towards the middle of this term we plan to explore Lewes castle. This will be our first big trip, which will be very exciting.

At the end of term, we will also enjoy a 'Royal Banquet', where the children can come in dressed up as a member of the castle, to enjoy a day of fun activities, crafts and of course, a banquet fit for royalty! More details of these events will follow in the next few weeks.



**Literacy**



A key part of EYFS is forming 'recognisable letters' with a comfortable grip. Please encourage your children to write in as many contexts as possible at home (cards to relatives/friends, shopping lists, signs around the house, labelling their toys etc).

Developing their gross and fine motor skills are equally as important. Frequent drawing, puzzles, using play dough, and cutting with scissors also aid their writing skills, as it develops the strength and precision in their hands. Obstacle courses, playing football, singing and doing the actions to 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes, or even having a dance party can also support your child.

**Maths**



We will be continuing to secure our number skills by learning number bonds within 1-10 and learning more about the numbers 9 and 10, alongside learning about 3-D shapes and length, height and time.

The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise numbers to 10. We will be focusing on this throughout the term, cementing their prior learning and we would love you you to support us with this at home too.

<p><b>Home Support</b></p> 	<p>To help consolidating the children's counting, please spend time counting objects around the house (and out and about!) with confidence to 10, alongside writing and recognising number to 10, then beyond.</p> <hr/> <p>Thanks to constant practice, the children's reading is developing well. Thank you to all of you who support this at home. It really does make a difference. Please ensure you are reading with your child around 3 times a week and adding these reads to Boom Reader. Books will be changed when your child is secure with the sounds, reading with increased fluency and can recap the story. Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for a few minutes, and please focus on blending sounds together and focusing on recognising tricky words. When your child is reading, we are also practicing how to sound out the words in their head and then say the word out loud.</p>
<p><b>Topic</b></p> 	<p>Here are some ideas of how to engage with our 'Once Upon a Time' topic at home: · Reading fairy tales and guessing what might happen next. · Using familiar phrases from stories in their play (e.g. I'll huff and I'll puff and...) · Visiting a castle. · Dressing up and role-playing. · Experimenting with materials through building and crafting. · Building small worlds with figurines to develop storylines in their play. · Exploring the outdoors and imagining what magical creatures could be nearby! · Drawing story maps of their own stories. · Create picture maps of the journeys you have been on, and discuss what happened first, then and last.</p> <p>You could also ask your child about their learning with these key questions:  Who lived in a castle? How is living in a castle different to living in a house? Who worked in a castle? What job would you like to have done in the castle? What is the structure of the story? Who are the main characters? Where is the story set? What happened in the story? First? Then? Finally?</p>

Quick reminders:

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named water bottle, their book bag and reading folder each day.
- Due to the change in seasons and the wet weather, please can you ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school.
- There is Forest School this term. Our sessions are the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Please can waterproof trousers/suits and wellies be in school at all times and are named. This will ensure that we can go into our outdoor area in all weathers.
- Our regular PE days are Monday and Friday and children will arrive at school in their PE kit and trainers.
- Please can your child have a bag filled with a spare change of clothes that can be kept at school, especially socks.
- Please label any additional belongings.
- Please can we also ask that home toys stay at home, unless it is to support with transitions.

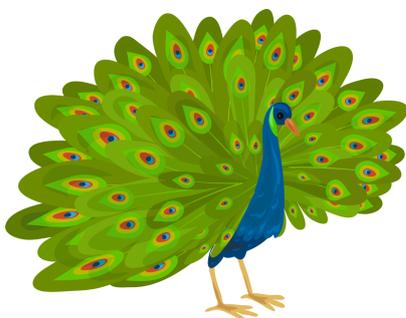
Useful links:

We encourage children to continue their learning at home which will enhance their progress at school. If you would like to support your child's learning at home below are some useful links and games.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> : Phonics games and activities

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> : Early Years maths and phonics games

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks> : Number Blocks clips



Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any questions. We look forward to another excellent term of reception and seeing you all continue to thrive and flourish.

Miss Deane, Mrs Fenton and Mr Menzies

