



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Well Lane Danbury Chelmsford CM3 4AB

Telephone: 01245 224994

Email: admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Jones BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

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Dear Parents,



Learning in Class Goldfinch Autumn Term 2024



Welcome to Class Goldfinch. I hope you all had a restful summer break. Miss Fuller is our class LSA and is in every morning and Thursday afternoons. The first few days of the term have been spent establishing new routines and settling the children in.

We have discussed what helps us to feel safe, happy and able to learn well at school and we have put our ideas into a Class Code of conduct.

During this term our topic is titled 'Time Travellers' and we will be learning about Castles. The question we will be looking to answer is, 'Were castles a good place to live?' The children have recorded their thoughts on this already and we shall be revisiting the question throughout the topic to see if their opinions have changed! I am really looking forward to taking the children out to visit Hedingham Castle. This has proved a successful visit in recent years and the children enjoy visiting a 'real' castle and learning more about what it was like to live in a castle!

In English, we shall look at stories that are set in or around castles, including traditional tales and there will be a dragon theme to some of the stories we learn about too! The poetry we study will also have a castle theme. Non-fiction writing this term will begin with information texts, following our visit they will write a recount and finally the children will write diary entries when they will adopt the role of a castle resident!

Reading

I would also like to encourage all children to read to someone at home, every night for about 10 minutes, as this is invaluable and vital to your child's learning. If you could initial their home-school link book or write a comment to show your child has read this will help us to praise your child in school. Each time you record that your child has read to an adult at home, your child's diary is stamped. If your child reads 3 or more times a week they receive a 'star reader' stamp which are awarded on Fridays. At the end of the half-term, those children that have received a 'star reader' stamp every week will receive a 'book worm' certificate to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work. Should your child receive a star reader stamp for each week of the term they will be awarded a special 'star reader' certificate.

For those children in Year Two, it is important to discuss the text with your child when hearing them read. This will help develop their comprehension skills. Every Friday the children will select their '**Fantastic Friday**' book which may be a story or non-fiction book for them to read with an adult at home. I know in previous years how popular these books are and how parents enjoy reading these to/with their child. The children will be given dedicated time to change their books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This term we are focusing on the correct letter formation. This will enable children in Year Two to begin following our school handwriting scheme set of joined letter patterns.

Maths

Maths this term will focus on place value, number, addition and subtraction. These foundations will then be embedded throughout the year. The children will develop their understanding of number and explore different ways to represent the numbers that they are working with. An Infant Maths booklet will be shared with you this term so you are able to see ways of recording that your child will be taught and this will then enable you to support them at home too.

History

Our history learning will focus on castles as homes in the past and looking at famous people that lived in castles. The children will explore why castles were built, when they were built and how they have changed over time. Whilst learning about castles, the children will also find out about the different jobs that were required to run a castle.

Geography

This will be linked to our History topic and the children will be looking at maps, atlases and globes.

Science

We shall be investigating materials in Science. The children will learn the names of different materials and their properties and then identify the uses of these materials in everyday objects and the properties that make them suitable. We will also look at the suitability of materials for different parts of a castle.

Design Technology

The children will use their scientific knowledge to help them to design and make a drawbridge on a 3-D model castle. Within this unit, they will look at and learn different ways to attach materials. We will be asking the children to design a castle and holding a castle making day when the children have the dedicated time to create their vision using everyday junk modelling and then evaluating their creation. To help us do this we will ask for volunteers to come in and help. Details to follow.

Art

We will be experimenting with a variety of media: pencils, crayons, pastels, charcoal and Chalk. The children enjoy doing this! We will be doing some sketching of castles, silhouettes, looking at colour, shade and tone. We will be weaving using different materials to create a sample wall hanging for a castle.

Computing

We will be looking at how to stay safe online, understanding the dangers and that children should seek help if necessary. From this, we will compose our own set of online safety rules for the class. We will also be discussing ways in which we use technology in our world. The year ones will learn how to create media using a paint program and year twos will look at how to use digital photography.

RE

These lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons with Ms Middleton.

This term the children will be exploring the key questions: What do Christians believe about God? And What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem?

PSHEe & C

We will be looking at the following headings over this term.

Being Me in My World

- The rights and responsibilities as a member of my class
- How my views are valued and to contribute our school Learning Charter
- The choices that I make and their consequences
- My rights and responsibilities within our Learning Charter

Celebrating difference

- Similarities between myself and others in my class
- Differences between myself and people in my class
- Bullying and how it might feel
- Who to talk too if I need help
- Strategies to make friends

Music

Mrs Long teaches Music every Thursday morning.

French

This is taught on a Thursday morning.

Class Routines

Our PE days are **Mondays and Thursdays**, so children will need to have their shorts, jogging trousers, PE sweatshirt, a t-shirt and trainers on these days. The PE kits that are being kept in school should be in a drawstring bag. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons and that long hair needs to be tied back every day please. Children will need their outdoor PE kit for their Thursday lessons. It is helpful if your child has a separate bag inside their PE bag to put their shoes in. **Please ensure your child has a spare pair of socks kept in their book bag and that all PE kit, school jumpers and cardigans are clearly named.** Can I also remind you that their book bag needs to be in school every day.

The children have the opportunity and are encouraged to have a drink of water in class after each playtime. Please check that your child's water bottle is clearly named.

Let's presents will take place on Wednesday afternoons. Your child's allocated dates for this term were given in a separate letter. Any resources, e.g. PowerPoints for these can be e-mailed to the Class G e-mail. classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

All children will have their spellings tested on **Fridays**. Spelling books are sent home on Fridays and need to be returned to school on a Monday morning. Common exception words will be tested before the end of each half term but these will not be tested on the same day as the weekly spelling test.

This term, once every three weeks, the following tasks/challenges will be set:

- A Athletics challenge will be set for your child, this will focus on consolidating and extending your child's current learning.
- A spelling task for year twos on Spelling Shed whilst year ones have a phonics challenge on Bug Club.
- Maths game - the year 1 children take home a maths game which will reinforce different areas of the maths curriculum. The children in Year Two have been given login details so they can access Times Table Rock Stars. They have been set to encourage your child to learn the 2, 5 and 10 times-tables.

Please look out for details in your child's reading diary. If you are unable to access the internet at home please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mathletics Challenge Y1 & Y2
Phonics challenge on Bug Club Y1 only <i>Spelling Shed activity Y2 only</i>
Maths Game (Year Ones) <i>Times Tables Rock Stars (Year Twos)</i>

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please leave a message at the school office and I will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. Alternatively, you can use our Class G e-mail, classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk , which I check every day, or include a note in your child's reading diary as these are checked daily by staff.

Thank you for your continued support.

D Johnston
Miss D Johnston
Class teacher