🏰 Reception Autumn 2

Curriculum Statement: Castles

This half term, our Reception children will embark on a journey into the world of **castles**, exploring their history, structure, and the lives of the people who lived in them. Through a rich blend of storytelling, imaginative play, and hands-on activities, children will develop key skills across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.

✨ Topic Overview

Children will be learning about:

- The features of castles (towers, turrets, moats, drawbridges)
- Roles of castle inhabitants (kings, queens, knights, servants)
- Life in medieval times through stories and role play
- Famous castles in the UK and their significance

📚 Prime Areas of Learning

- **Communication and Language**: Children will expand their vocabulary through castle-themed stories, discussions, and role play. They will work on listening attentively and expressing ideas confidently.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**: Working together to build castles and act out stories will foster teamwork, empathy, and turn-taking.

- **Physical Development**: Fine motor skills will be developed through cutting, building, and drawing castle features; gross motor skills through weekly PE sessions, Forest Schools and outdoor play.

🧠 Specific Areas of Learning

- **Literacy**: Children will explore traditional tales such as *The Princess and the Pea* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*, The Frog Prince as well as non fiction books explaining castles from the past. Children will be engaging in mark-making, storytelling, and early writing activities. We will continue to follow the progression of phase 2 Little Wandle phonics and reading.
- **Mathematics**: We will use castle-themed counting, 2D shape recognition and early measuring activities to build numeracy skills. We will continue to look at numbers 5-10 and the composition of these numbers as well as developing a strong link between number and the representation of them on fingers.
- **Understanding the World**: Children will learn about the past, comparing life in castles to modern homes, and exploring maps to locate famous castles.
- **Expressive Arts and Design**: Creative expression will flourish through designing and constructing castles, making crowns and shields, and performing in role play scenarios.

Enrichment opportunities: Diwali focus week including creating coloured sand rangoli patterns, coconut sweets, clay diya lamps and mehndi patterns. Forest Schools. Christmas theatre trip.

Nativity Play: Children will dress up, learn songs and perform in our nativity play as well as taking leading roles and performing the play to younger children at local groups.