

family

Look at medieval castles referring to the Usbourne website again. Watch the jousting video clip. Explore knights in more detail via the Twinkl powerpoint. What did knights do? Who were they protecting? What was their armour like? Children to make their own pieces of armour using junk model materials.

Compare kings/queens/princes/princesses in the past to modern day royals. Look at photographs of our modern day Royal Family compared to some in the past. See if children can name any of the modern day royals. What do they do? Where do they live?

Week 2 (11th Jan—15th Jan) What is a castle?

Search what a castle is using the Usbourne quicklink e-book. Watch the flyover video of Framlingham Castle <https://usborne.com/gb/quicklinks/quicklink/castles> What features do castles have? Why do they have these features? Use the Twinkl castle powerpoint to find out more. Children to draw a castle using photographs or design their own. Have various real life castle pictures available for children to label the features. Set construction challenges for children to build castles both indoors and outdoors using lego, large boxes, crates etc.

Week 1 (5th Jan– 8th Jan) Introduction

Show photograph of a castle and find out what children already know about them. What is a castle? Who lives in them? Do you know of any castles near where we live? Ask children what they would like to know/find out about castles. Gather ideas and make a class mind map.

NELI Screening this week

Week 4 (20th Jan 27 – 30th Jan) The Knight and the Dragon

Share the first half of The Knight and the Dragon story. Encourage children to write a list of battle equipment for either the knight or the dragon. Read the final part of the story. What were the characters good at? What happened when they combined their skills? What are you good at? All children to write a word or caption to create an award plaque to show what they are good at. Display plaques in the classroom.

Weeks 5 & 6 (1st Feb—12th Feb) Castles Around the World and Chinese New Year

Look at Twinkl powerpoint of various castles around the world. How are they similar/different? (colour, materials, size) Focus on castles in China to introduce Chinese New Year.

Share the Chinese New Year story for children to understand why it is celebrated. Watch the CBeebies Lets Celebrate videos to see how people prepare for Chinese New Year. What part does the dragon play? What does the colour red signify?

Children make decorations to put up in the classroom to celebrate. Make Chinese lanterns, paper chain Chinese dragons, dragon masks. Children to write good luck messages to friends/family on red strips of card. Perform a dragon dance using hoops in the outdoor area. Type name on laptops using Chinese characters and display alongside a photo. Watch Disney's Mulan about a warrior princess for Sparkle time.

Half Term Homework Family Shield

As parents are unable to participate in our family coat of arms event in school, set task as homework. Children to decorate their cardboard coat of arms with their favourite colours and patterns and add drawings/photos of family members and pets. Children could also display their family traditions, hobbies and interests.

Weeks 9 & 10 (8th March — 19th March) Rapunzel

Staff perform the Rapunzel story to children. Can they guess which story it is? Read the Rapunzel story from a traditional tales book.

Children perform the Rapunzel story in groups of three with an adult narrating. Use the role play fairy tale castle as the setting. Children select their costumes and prepare any props they would like to use. Staff video the performances and show back to the children.

Children draw and write about their favourite part of the story. Use key vocab such as setting, beginning middle and end. Watch Tangled during Golden Time. Have hairdressing sets out for children to play with.

Weeks 7 & 8 (22nd Feb—5th March) Frozen

Focus on stories which contain fantasy castles and characters over this half term. Children create a class mind map of any stories they know which contain kings, queens, princes and princesses. Print the image and tick on. Add to the mind map as the weeks progress.

Watch Frozen and set the ice challenge. Have laminated Frozen characters trapped in ice (made with lolly moulds). In pairs, children must think of where to place the ice to release the character the fastest. Prize for the winning pair. Children visit the ice every 30 mins and photograph each time to capture what happens.

Enjoy songs from Frozen and Frozen II during Continuous Provision and break times.

Weeks 11 & 12 (22nd March —31st March) Knight/Princess Party

Children to listen to the Sleeping Beauty story and then watch the film. Children work in small groups to role play the story (all at the same time in the hall). Children to then order the pictures and write a word/caption/sentence underneath.

Explain the prince and princesses party to the children. Ask them what they would like to eat/drink/do at the party. See if they would like to dress up. Make decorations, crowns etc ready for the party.

Challenge- Set the pupils a challenge of writing their own knights/prince/princesses story with a prize per class as an incentive. Use props such as crowns, tiaras, swords, towers as a stimulus.