



We have had a brilliant half term learning about The Great Fire of London. Thank you to those of you who joined us for our class assemblies. It was wonderful to see the children so confident and proud of the work they have achieved.

Resources needed: this half term, we will making our own 'kings and queens' classroom library. If you have any at home, please send in some books. When selecting the books you would like to bring in, please be mindful that these will be used by all children and could get damaged. Any books sent into school should be clearly named.

What are we learning?

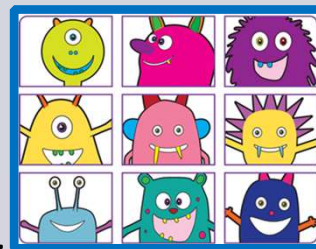
Why did people build castles in Hampshire?

This half term, children will be learning about castles and their role in history. They will explore the main features of a castle and learn why these were important for defence and everyday life.

Children will compare castles from different time periods, looking at similarities and differences as castles changed over time. They will also learn about the people who lived and worked in castles and forts, including their jobs and roles.

Children will investigate castle defences and the weapons used in attacks and protection. Finally, they will learn how castles are no longer used for their original purpose and how many are now important historical sites.

Please regularly check your child's book bag throughout the half term for homework. This will include word lists designed to support children in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check in June.



In addition, please encourage your child to read at home as often as possible.

Regular reading helps build confidence, develop fluency, and reinforce the sounds they are learning in school. Please also refer to the weekly spelling lists, which support the specific words and sounds taught each week.



Optional Learning Beyond the Classroom

Creative Activities	<p>Build a Castle Use LEGO, blocks, cardboard boxes, or toilet rolls. Add towers, gates, and a flag.</p> <p>Design a Crown Cut a crown from paper or card. Decorate with crayons, stickers, or "jewels" (foil).</p> <p>Draw a Royal Family Draw a king, queen, prince or princess in a castle.</p> <p>Make a Shield Draw a shield shape and colour it with patterns or symbols.</p>
Things to do	<p>Visit a local castle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor castle Odiham castle (free) https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/things-to-do/odiham-castle-p285561 SouthSea castle (free) https://southseacastle.co.uk/ Arundel castle https://www.arundelcastle.org/ Guildford Castle (Free for grounds tour) (£2.50 for children £5.00 for adults inside tour) https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/25594/About-Guildford-Castle <p>Research castles local to you Use these castles as starting point for research and information gathering. What is interesting about them? Are there any differences between them? What key features do they have?></p>
Role Play	<p>Castle Role Play Pretend to be a king, queen, knight, or guard. Use dressing-up clothes or homemade props.</p> <p>Royal Tea Party Have a pretend tea party for the king and queen.</p> <p>Royal Story Time Read a story about castles or royalty (or watch a short story video).</p>

If you choose to do any of these activities we would love for you to bring in photos to share with your class.

Support your child at home by learning the meaning to some or all of these words.



Words to help with my learning

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day 2026

Thursday 5th March

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day with our theme “Read Your Way”. This year, we are encouraging children to enjoy stories in any form they love. This could be; traditional books, comics, magazines, audiobooks, or graphic novels. All reading counts!

To mark the occasion, children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite story.

As part of this activity, we will also be encouraging children to explore and use rich, ambitious vocabulary— adjectives they might not use in their everyday conversations. This is a wonderful way to deepen their language skills and help them describe characters with more precision and creativity. Therefore, along with their costume, we ask each child to choose an adjective that describes their chosen character. This word should be displayed somewhere on their outfit in the form of a badge/ sticky label. For example, a superhero might choose brave, or a fairy-tale character might choose kind or curious.

We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading together and seeing all the wonderful costumes and descriptive words the children choose

Please join us in school at **2.30pm** on **Thursday 5th March** to read and share stories with your child in school.

