

**St Andrew's CE VC Primary School**  
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Headteacher: Mrs H Green

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

## Welcome back to a new school year!

A big welcome back after the summer holidays. We hope that you had the chance to unwind and make some memories. It is so lovely to have everyone back and for the whole school to be able to join together again.

We are kicking off the new school year with a two term topic, 'Invaders'. In Term 1, we will be focusing on castles and looking at the big question

# Why are castles important?



**Thornbury Castle**



**Berkeley Castle**



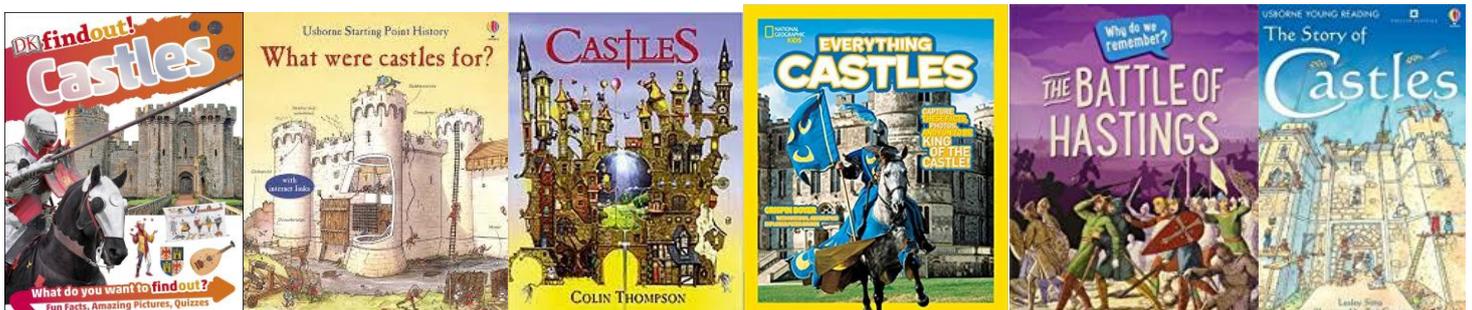
**Caldicot Castle**

We will be having a **virtual visit from Reading Museum on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**, where the children will be introduced to the Bayeux tapestry, learning about The Battle of Hastings, the Norman invasion and how this led to the first castles being built in the United Kingdom.

We are also visiting **Berkeley Castle on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October**, where we will be exploring the history of the castle, finding out about its purpose and why it was built in Berkeley.

There are so many castles nearby to visit, especially over the bridge in Wales. A lovely (free) one is Caldicot Castle <https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/caldicot-castle/#> and there is also Chepstow Castle (£) <https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/chepstow-castle>, not to mention Blaise Castle (free) as well <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/blaise-castle-estate>.

Here are some of the fabulous books that we will be exploring during our learning journey;





### Author of the term

This year, each class will be celebrating a different well-known author each term. Year 1 & 2 will be enjoying books written by **Jill Tomlinson**.



We are currently reading, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, and the children are really enjoying it. This will feed into our whole class and guided reading groups in class as well.

In the picture you can see some other books by this author that your children might enjoy reading by themselves or with you. Let us know which is your favourite!

### Individual reading books

Children will be asked if their reading books need changing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please make sure your child has their reading book with them every day.

### Library

Year 1 & 2 will be visiting our school library on Fridays. The children get to keep the book for a whole week and are asked to return it the following Friday. Library books do need to be returned for a new one to be issued.

### Phonics

We have daily phonics lessons and your child will be sent home with a phonics chart of the current sounds they are being taught. These sounds can also be found in the middle pages of their reading diaries. Practising these sounds and helping your child become fluent in using them positively impacts on their reading. Your support is really makes a difference!

### Spellings

On our website, you can find the common exception words (CEWs) for each year group. Children are expected to be able to read and spell these words by the end of either Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Whilst we focus on these during our phonics lessons, it is useful if you revisit these at home as well.



Please find Term 3's homework activities attached. As always, these are intended to be fun activities that suit all learning styles. These are not compulsory, however it would be lovely to see at least one thing from every child.

Feel free to come up with other ideas for learning at home – your ideas might be better than mine! In the last week of term, we have a 'home learning sharing afternoon', where children celebrate all their fabulous creations and ideas.

### School Book Bags

Please can we ask that children bring **ONLY** their **SCHOOL BOOK BAG** to school. Space is a premium in our small school and the children only need to be bringing in their water bottle and reading book to school, so larger bags are not necessary. Thank you for your help with this.



Please support your child in remembering to bring the following items to school each day;

**Wellies** (you can leave these at school)

**Water bottle** (just water please!)

**Reading books and reading folders daily**

**P.E kits to be worn on Tuesdays and Wednesdays**

**Coat**

**Jumper**

**Library books returned on Fridays**

A big thank you for supporting your child's learning. Do drop us a line, if ever you need to, our door is always open!

Warmest regards,

Philippa Gatehouse and Claire Spiers

Year 1 & 2 Class Teachers.