

Castles and Dragons Reception Summer– 2026

Project Overview

This project has a Humanities focus and enables children to explore the historical, traditional and fantasy world of castles including the lives of people who lived and worked in them during the Middle Ages. Opportunities will be provided for children to experience a range of cultural stories, activities and events that celebrate aspects of Welsh heritage and tradition.



Mathematics and Numeracy

This term we will be learning the following topics in Maths:

- Addition
- Subtraction
- Teen numbers.
- Exploring 100
- 3D shapes
- Capacity (taking on the role of servants filling the King's bath / washing the Queen's plates, watering the garden)
- Measuring outside
- Telling the time
- Doubling and halving.
- Fractions

Religion, Values and Ethics

This term our values are Creativity and Justice. We will be learning about the Church as a place to worship and the liturgical year. We will be continuing to listen to stories from the Bible.

Our 'Ffrindiau'r Byd' work will consist of us learning about God's creation, photographing the Spring changes in the school environment, comparing the Chinese creation story to the Christian one and learning about how to look after the things that God created, e.g. recycling, litter picking. The children learn how they can make a positive difference to the world around them. This gives children a voice and helps them to develop responsibility, teamwork and an understanding of the importance of protecting the planet for the future.



Welsh Language Development

As well as recapping sentence patterns and vocabulary already learnt this year the children will:

- Join in with songs and rhymes on the theme of dragons and castles in Welsh language.
- Listen to traditional tales
- Learn about famous people who have shaped our country (Owain Glyndwr)
- Learn sentence patterns and vocabulary associated with weather, clothes, food, where we live, likes/dislikes

Language, Literacy and Communication.

We will be continuing with our Read, Write Inc. programme at the level appropriate for your child, learning single sounds, digraph 'special friends', spelling words and writing sentences.

We will be learning all about the features of a castle, life in a castle and the life of a knight. We will pose questions which provoke talking and thinking such as - What's inside the castle? Who might have lived in this castle? Point out features such as turrets and towers and provoke imaginative play using small world dragons and knights.

The children will play with a small world castle and have a castle role play area to encourage the creation of their own imaginative stories and dialogue between characters.

We will be learning about dragons and reading different dragon tales. We will encourage the children to think about words to describe how a dragon might move and record these as part of a display or word wall.

We will be looking at pictures and paintings of mythical dragons and talk about them. Think about ways dragons might move such as swooping, diving and soaring.

We will be making up our own fairy tales, using 'Once Upon A Time' and 'Lived Happily Ever After' as a start and end to the story.

Humanities

The children will:

- Look at pictures and plans of different types of castles such as motte and bailey, stone keep and concentric castles. Talk about what they can see and describe how the castles are different from each other. Encourage the children to look for similarities and differences and talk about the different types of materials and structures of each type of castle. Provide opportunities to create 3D castles using modelling materials.
 - Look at books and pictures to find out who would live and work in a castle from the Lord himself to the servants and village peasants. Describe how different people dressed and what their jobs would be on a daily basis. Provide opportunity to role play different castle characters from servants making the Lord's bed to a cook preparing the King's banquet.
 - Take a walk through the local community to look at different types of houses and homes. Take photographs and make drawings, talking about the materials that they are made from. Draw pictures and create their own mini books about different types of homes. Ask questions to extend thinking such as - 'What type of home do you live in?', 'What is your home made from?', 'Where would you like to live?' Extend through further talk back in the classroom. 'Would you like to live in a castle?' 'Why/why not?'
 - Find out about 'The Last Welsh Prince Llewelyn'
 - Look at a range of images of Owain Glyndwr and ask the children what kind of man do they think he was. Encourage the children to use the images to become 'history detectives' looking for clues and making suggestions about the Princes and their lives.
- VISIT CARDIFF CASTLE!
- We will also learn about where in the world real dragons live! We will use atlas' and globes and the Internet to learn about Komodo dragons



Science and Technology

We will be designing a shield for Mike the Knight and making a Medieval Banquet.

We will plant vegetables in our Castle Garden and watch them grow.

Use a variety of apps and computer programmes to support their learning across the curriculum, e.g. Chatterpix and Seesaw.

Health and Well-being

- We will consider and observe the Value of the half term (Creativity, then Justice)
- There will be an emphasis on caring - for each other, our immediate environment and the world.
- We will talk about our families.
- Our Role play areas this term will consist of a castle. The children will develop their ability to share with their peers further, take turns and they will also develop their friendships whilst working in their learning environment.
- Your children will take part in athletic type activities this term, improving on their throwing and running skills in readiness for Sports Day.
- Other physical development activities will be developed through topical play both indoors and out, threading, riding bikes, building models and dens and construction such as Lego etc.



Expressive Arts

The children will:

- Design and make objects and artefacts such as a castle, shield, torches, crowns and goblets using a range of creative resources. Take photographs of the creative processes and encourage children to describe how they made their items.
- Consider what a dragon might like to eat other than a beautiful princess! Explore a range of foods to select ingredients and create recipes. Take part in making, baking and cooking for the Medieval Banquet.
- Learn a traditional Medieval song or dance. Introduce the children to Medieval music and dances that they can learn and perform collectively.