

# Bramble Infant School & Nursery

Bramble Road, Southsea, PO4 0DT  
Headteacher: Mr Oliver Bradley  
Nursery Manager: Mrs Mindy Butler

## Year One Topic Letter

19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you had an enjoyable half term break. We have a busy few weeks ahead with lots of exciting learning opportunities for the Year One children. Our topic for this half term is '**Castles and Crowns.**' We will be travelling back in time to learn about historical Kings and Queens and the castles they lived in.

### Week 1: The Role of a Monarch

As historians we will be looking at the life of the Queen and the Royal Family and placing significant events in order of time. We shall be considering the role of a monarch and making up some rules of our own if we were King or Queen for the day!



### Week 2: Henry VIII



During week 2 we will continue our work on British monarchs by looking at significant monarchs and comparing the lives of Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. We will also gain a simple understanding of the life of Henry VIII and his six wives. We will explore his links to Southsea Castle.

### Week 3: Castles

As historians we will be finding out about castles. We will look at how they were built and how they changed over time. We will be investigating the fortifications of a castle; how they kept the enemy out and how they were sometimes attacked. We will also be learning about the different rooms and buildings within a castle as well as their various purposes.



As actors and actresses, we will be role-playing what it was like to live in the castle and investigate the people who lived there.

**Watch out for news about our trip to Southsea Castle - details to follow soon!**

## Week 4 & 5: Growing



As scientists we will be finding out about a variety of wild and garden plants; we will be examining the different parts of a plant and also making observations about how plants grow. We will also learn more about the trees that our classes are named after; Oak, Elm, Maple, Beech, Hazel and Willow.

As artists we will be studying the work of *Georgia O'Keeffe* and creating works of art in the same style. Look out for our art work on display in the classrooms.



## Week 6: Easter



During week 6 we will be sharing the Easter story and considering the sad and happy feelings that a Christian may have at this time of year. We will think about times when our feelings change and when this is significant.

### How you can help!

- Visit a library and borrow books about kings, queens, knights, castles etc.
- Visit a castle e.g. Southsea, Portchester, Arundel etc.
- Make a model of an aspect of the topic. Can you paper mache, collage, paint, or build in order to create a knight or a castle?
- Draw castles, labelling rooms and significant areas.
- Get your child to compare their own home with a castle. What is similar? What is different?
- Grow a sunflower seed or a bean plant at home and observe the changes.
- Visit Milton Park and look for plants and trees that you have learned about in school.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support in your child's education.

**Mrs Bev Brown**

**Year One Lead/Maple Class Teacher**

**Mrs Sarah Mayell-Thomas**

**Beech Class teacher**