



DORMICE AND ROBINS
CURRICULUM LETTER SUMMER 2017
'Long, Long Ago' and 'Shiver my Timbers'



We hope that you have all had an enjoyable, sunny holiday and that you are all ready for an action-packed final term in Foundation. Your children are now well settled into school and we will be working on building resilience and further independence in preparation for Year 1.

This term we are planning lots of exciting learning for your children! Our topics for the term are entitled- '**Long, Long Ago**' and '**Shiver my Timbers**'. The first topic will be all about dragons, knights and princesses which will help to develop their understanding of history and change over time as well as the differences between fact and fiction and their own British culture. After half term, our topic will be focused on pirates which will develop skills in problem solving and understanding of the world. There will also be a short topic around keeping fit and healthy. Below is an outline of what we have planned which will be added to each week by the children's own planning.

Theme 1- Long, Long Ago

In this work we will use a variety of stories about dragons, castles and knights as a stimulus for our learning including *Dragon Stew* by Steve Smallman as well as non-fiction books to help develop our vocabulary and knowledge. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to visit a castle, build our own castles and organise a banquet. During this topic, we will be focusing on extending our writing into stories.

Theme 2- Get Fit and Healthy

During this topic the children will learn about the importance of a healthy diet and the impact of exercise on our bodies. This will coincide with Sports Day.

Theme 3- Shiver my Timbers

Our topic will use key texts such as *Captain Yellowbelly* by Preston Rutt to stimulate our learning and imagination. We will be investigating floating, sinking and hope to have a Pirate Day.

Swimming and PE

The children will be swimming twice weekly as soon as the pool is ready and the weather is warm enough. We will advise on days as soon as we know. Swimming can only take place if we have sufficient adult help so we will be very grateful for volunteers – please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Please note that your children will need a PE kit for this term, which will also then be needed in Year 1 - black shorts, the relevant coloured polo top and trainers (not plimsolls). Please could your child have a named PE kit in school by Week 3. Coloured PE tops should be purchased from reception only, so that they are the same style and shade. If you do not wish to purchase a school top, please provide a *white* polo shirt.

Your child is in house and will need atop.

Black shorts often come in twin packs at Tesco, if you want to partner up! Please ensure that everything is labelled and remains in school for the half term in a bag on their peg. Thank you!

Basic Skills

The children will continue to have regular phonics and maths lessons as well as shared reading and writing opportunities. Every day they will also have opportunities to develop physical skills outside. We are hoping that your children will all be coming in to school all by themselves so that they develop further independence. We will also be developing their independence in being able to change quickly for PE and swimming, and in taking care of their own belongings.

Helping at home

Please continue to use the home-school books to let us know about home learning. We expect that all children will read at home on a daily basis, and continue to learn their keywords. We endeavour to change books regularly but please pop in if ever you would like more books. If you have anything that you feel would add to the topics above, please let us know. Please send in any WOW moments. Hugs and his friends will continue to come home for the weekends - thank you so much for your support with this, it is an important part of our learning and the children love hearing about your adventures. Show and Share will continue on Mondays. Please do not send toys on other days unless we have asked you.

Reports and progress

You will receive your child's report in July which will capture your child's progress and attainment during the year. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the report with us. Please remember that you are welcome at any time to see your child's work and discuss progress. You do not need to wait for a specified time, but you can make an appointment with any of us as you wish.

Assembly

Our assembly will be held on Tuesday 16th May at 2.30. Please make a note of this date and come along.

Key dates

May Day Bank holiday –Monday 1st May

Family day linked to our Long Long Ago topic –Thursday 25th May pm

Half Term- Monday 29th June –Friday 2nd June

Sports Day-Friday 23rd June

At the end of last term, we sent home a wish list of resources which will help our making and learning this term. Please send in any items that you may be able to contribute.

Thank you very much for all your support. If you have any queries, please ask. Finally, we are always grateful for help in class, particularly with welly walks as we can only manage these with additional help and they really do give purpose to our learning!

Here's hoping for a lovely Summer Term with lots of sunshine!

Best wishes,

Dormice Team.