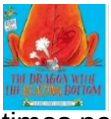
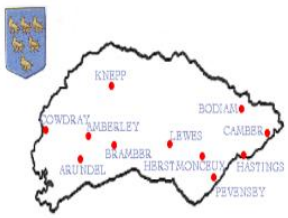
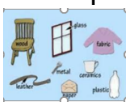
Grovelands School	Year Group: Year 2 Term: 1 Topic: Colossal Castles and Noble Knights

If you need to contact us, please email us or pass a message to a TA on the door/gate in the morning.
2ac@grovelands.e-sussex.sch.uk
2km@grovelands.e-sussex.sch.uk
2cs@grovelands.e-sussex.sch.uk
We aim to email you back within 24 hours, except at weekends.

What we will be learning this term!

This term the creative curriculum will explore "*Colossal Castles and Noble Knights"* with a geographical focus on castles in our local area and an historical focus on timelines of castles and the lives of people who lived in them long ago. As part of this wonderful topic we will be visiting Bodiam Castle on the 22nd and 24th of September 2026. Further information about groupings will follow.

Art and Design/Design Technology	We will be creating a castle picture using printing techniques and repeating patterns.
Computing	In computing, we will learn about information and technology around us.
English	We will be looking at a range of brilliant texts linked to the topic, namely, *Knight Night and The Knight who took all day. The class chapter reader will be The Boy Who Grew Dragons and our English writing focus will be through The Dragon with the Blazing Bottom and The Dragon and the Nibblesome Knight.* We will learn that not all knights are what they seem!  We read with your child three times per week and your child's reading book will be changed once per week. Please ensure their reading record is in school on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
History/Geography 	In geography, we will be exploring maps, atlases and globes and locating the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. We will look at maps of our locality (East Sussex) and locate Bodiam Castle. We will look at aerial photographs of Bodiam Castle to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features of the geographical area and use some basic map keys. In history, we will be learning about local historical events and people and places in their own locality linked to castles. They will find out historical facts about Bodiam Castle, they will be able to label parts of a castle and describe features of a castle. Pupils will learn about the past through timelines and sequencing known events, like when local castles were built, why they were built in particular areas and how they have changed over time. They will also observe and ask questions about artefacts at Bodiam castle. Children will be learning about a timeline of their own life. Please provide copies of a baby picture, a toddler picture and a current picture in a named envelope by Monday 14th September 2026.
Maths	In maths we will be learning about counting in 10s, 1 more and 1 less, 10 more and 10 less, number bonds to 10 and 20 and place value within 100. We will be looking at addition and subtraction using mathematical resources like a part

	whole model, a bar model and Rekenrek to help us make, draw and reason about our maths thinking! Additionally, we will do weekly times tables activities and daily number fluency through White Rose Fluency Bee. We also practise the skills of each child's level for the 99 club each week. Children are not expected to reach the 99 club until they are in year 6.
Music	We are learning about music theory introduction (pitch, rhythm and pulse) and learning about notation.
Online Safety	In Online Safety we will be using a new scheme, Project Evolve. The children will learn about Self Image and Identity and Online Bullying.
P.E.	We will be doing gymnastics. All of Year 2 will have PE during the PPA rotation on a Tuesday afternoon 2CS & 2KM will have PE on Monday afternoons. 2AC will have PE on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has PE kit which is: Blue shorts/tracksuit trousers and a white t-shirt.
PSHE	We are learning about resilience and what it looks like. We will also be learning about the career of an electrician.
R.E.	We will be exploring the Muslim faith and asking questions like: Who is a Muslim and how do they live? We will also explore different aspects of Islam like: *God/Tawhid, Iman (faith), Ibadah (worship), Akhirah (life after death) and Akhlaq (virtue/morality)*
Science	In science we are learning about the properties of materials and exploring simple investigations. 

Dates and events:
As part of our Term 1 Castles and Knights topic, we will be spending the day at The National Trust Bodiam Castle. Due to the large number of children in Year 2, we are having to split the the trip over two days of 45 children at each visit.
<u>All of 2KM and half (15) of 2AC will go on Tuesday 22nd September 26.</u>
<u>All of 2CS and the other half (15) of 2AC will go on Thursday 24th September 26.</u> Further details to follow by email.

Growth Mindset this term:

Our whole school learning power for the autumn term is *Engagement* and our character that represents that learning behaviour is *the wide-eyed owl* and his name is Barney.

<u>Barney Owl</u>
I come in to school each morning ready to work.
I know what 'good listening' looks like.
I can listen to my teacher and my Learning Partner
I can concentrate on my work until I finish.

Learning behaviour:

Our motto is:
It's ok if you don't know,
But it's not ok if you don't try!
Making mistakes help us learn and thoughts help us grow! Encourage your child's Love of Learning by getting them to explore their thought bubble ideas!

Remind your child that: “I can’t do it,” does not exist. Encourage them to think, “I can’t do it…. yet!”

Ideas for parents and carers to do linked to our topic!

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/bodiam-castle

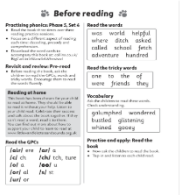
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zg8t6g8

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/z7c3sk7

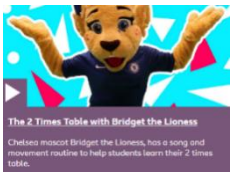
Homework:

Reading:

Please read with your child and to your child every night. It supports their vocabulary development and book talk opens up discussions about retelling the story, character talk, the meaning of new vocabulary, prediction of what might happen and how to infer what something may mean. Each child has a Big Cat login stuck in their reading record. Little Wandle books are now also available as an e book for your child’s book band level.



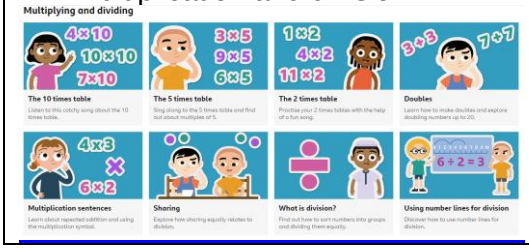
Read and learn the Year 2 Common Exception words!



- All homework is accessed through Google Classroom.
- The BBC ‘Super Movers KS1 Website’ to practise time tables. Please start with the 10x, progressing to 2s then 5s.
  Please count in groups forwards and backwards and use the language of groups of and lots off alongside the word multiplication and multiply.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqbg87h
  Multiplication and division



Please also practise number facts and fluency on Numbots for 10 minutes a day, a few times a week. (Password is stuck inside the reading record)

The maths' program, "Numbots" is a great way to support children's counting, addition and subtraction fluency in maths. The logins and passwords are stuck inside the reading diary so the children can access this at home. We will also add activities on Purple Mash which are linked to the topic.