



Year 1/2: Spring Topic

Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

TOPIC OVERVIEW
Head across the drawbridge and explore life behind the castle walls.

Key Texts
George and the Dragon by Christopher Wormell
The Princess and the White Bear King by Tanya Robyn Batt

PRIMARY FOCUS
High Achievement & Aspiration

HISTORY:
Skills: Children will compare modern life with life in castles
They will compare castles from different time periods and order them on a timeline.
Knowledge: Children will learn about the features of castles such as moats, battlements, keep and drawbridge
They will learn about what life was like living in a castle.
They will learn about the life of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Elizabeth II.
Understand-
Children will understand the purpose of castles. They will understand the changing role of the Tower of London.
SCIENCE -
Skills:
Children will investigate the uses of a range of common materials
They will sort a variety of everyday materials according to their properties.
They will carry out simple tests to explore the properties of materials.
Knowledge:
Children will name and describe the physical properties of common materials such as metal, paper, wood etc
They will use scientific vocabulary to describe the properties of materials eg opaque, transparent, rigid, malleable, waterproof, absorbant

SECONDARY FOCUS
High Achievement & Aspiration

DT:
Children will explore bridge structures
Skills: Children will select and use a range of tools and equipment.
Children will learn to join materials using a variety of techniques
Children will design and build a bridge
ART:
Knowledge:
Children will learn about the artist William Turner.
Skills:
Children will use lines of varying thickness to draw closely observed pictures of parts of castles.
Children will work with watercolours.
They will create their own picture inspired by William Turner's painting of Alnwick Castle.
Children will evaluate and improve their work.
GEOGRAPHY -
Children will identify human and physical features in the environment.
Children will compare bridges and towers from around the world.
They will go out and explore bridges in the local area.

DISCRETE SUBJECTS
High Achievement & Aspiration

PSHE: Theme: Going for Goals
Children will be able to talk about how we learn. They will talk about their strengths and successes as learners.
They will set themselves goals and consider what they need to do to reach their goals.
COMPUTING:
Children will continue to learn about the importance of safe internet use.
Children will use a drawing package to create images of castles.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION:
Children will learn
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
What makes some places sacred?
Children will learn about special places where people go to worship, and talk about what people do there.
They will learn about the ways that Christians, Muslims and Jewish people worship
They will identify objects which are used in a church, mosque and synagogue and talk about how they are used.
Moral Purpose Theme:

We will create our own plastic bottle house in school so please bring in empty plastic bottles from home.
We will be delivering an assembly on recycling and how we can make a difference in school.
School project to improve recycling

ENGLISH WRITING:
Narrative: 3 weeks
Bluebell: George and the Dragon by Christopher Wormell
Daisy/Tulip: The Princess and the White Bear King by Tanya Robyn Batt
Persuasion/Invitations: 1 week
Recounts: 2 weeks

ENGAGE Creativity & Exploration
Children will work together to make model castles.
Children will re-enact the storming of a castle to develop understanding of the features of a castle.

EXPRESS High Achievement & Aspiration
Coronation of a King or Queen as part of a castle celebration in the Great Hall. This will include dancing and singing.

VALUE Community Collaboration

- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Responsibility
- ✓ Collaboration/Learning Together
- ✓ Positivity
- ✓ Respect

NEW EXPERIENCE Creativity & Exploration
Exploring the importance of recycling and the impact it has on the world. A local recycling organisation will come in and speak to the children about recycling locally and across the world.