

Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term

2023-24

Year 2



See the castle ahead? Get ready to invade its mighty walls. Shoot a projectile with an archer's aim. Head across the drawbridge, over the moat and up to the top of the tower. Explore castles throughout UK history. Meet Rapunzel who lives in a tall, tall tower. Let's build a brand new one. Whose is the tallest? Can you measure it? Then dig deep, deep down, making burrows and tunnels, just like the animals who live underground. What's that sound? I hear little hooves going trip, trap, trip, trap, over the rickety bridge. Watch out for the angry troll underneath. He likes to gobble up little girls and boys. Make sure your bridge is sturdy enough to take our weight and get us safely to the other side. And finally, meet three little pigs who need your help to build a strong fortress. Inside its strong walls, they'll be safe from the big, bad wolf. No huffing and puffing will blow your fortress down.

Reading and RWI phonics

Children will continue to develop their reading and comprehension skills this term. Children will not be taught Read, Write, Ink phonics in class, but rather in groups. Read, Write, Inc texts will be explored and the children will participate in high-quality discussion with the teacher, in groups, and in pairs. Daily sound practice will still occur so that our reading is best supported. Children will have the chance to discuss many stories, poems and non-fiction texts. They will be asked to summarise texts, make predictions and answer retrieval questions succinctly. Once the children have progressed through the Read, Write, Ink coloured bands we will then start the comprehension texts. It is at this point we really delve into the children's understanding of a text. The children will learn to discuss their ideas and predictions about stories. Can they re-tell the text? Can they make insightful comments? In addition to this, the children will also be read to each day. We will enjoy short stories and chapter books together and will often base work from these stories.



RWI spelling will continue to be taught throughout, allowing pupils to immerse themselves with the complexities of the English language rules and their exceptions. They will practice adding suffixes to the end of words, do we need to double, swap or drop the consonant at the end? That's what we will find out.

Literacy, communication and language.

This term we will be using 'Ready, Steady, Write' to support and inform our writing. Initially we will be reading, *The King who banned the dark*. The children will discuss ideas about why banning the dark is great idea and then they will explore the consequences to this decision. Learning to develop both sides of an argument will be something we greatly focus on during the first few weeks. Then the children will write to the king in the story, acting as his adviser who believes banning the dark was a poor choice. Then they will attempt to convince the king through their writing choices.

Grammar will also be a focus during our writing. The children will learn how to add suffixes -er, -ness and -ly. Additionally, they will be using various conjunctions when writing and speaking. We will be using commas for lists and even practicing using contraction apostrophes.

We will also enjoy a range of stories that will expose the children to high quality vocabulary and various styles of writing. Our books will include *Grandad's Island* and *A kid's life in a medieval castle*, among others! The aim of these books is to provide children with a range of texts, perspectives and interesting vocabulary choices. Discussions will be integral so that we all get the most out of each story.



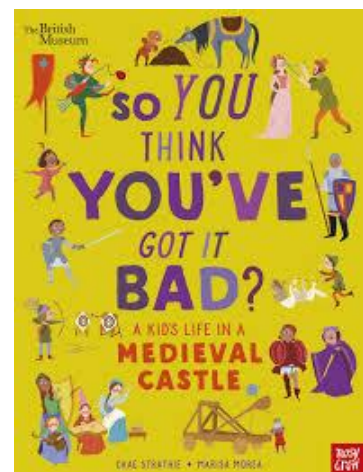
Our Focus texts;

The King who banned the dark

Grandad's Island

A kid's life in a medieval castle

See inside castles



Maths

At Umberleigh, children focus on the maths mastery approach. This means that children are challenged to 'dive deeper' with their learning to further explain, reason and justify their answers. It's important for your child to get to grips with maths in a very practical, hands-on way. Working individually, as a class and in groups, they will be investigating, counting, playing number games and using everyday objects to help them solve problems and complete simple calculations. Children will be given opportunities to deepen their learning by using their logic and reasoning skills in a range of real-life contexts and problems, we call these 'Dive Deeper's'.

During the first half term your child will be learning about 'Fractions'. They will learn to recognise halves, quarters and thirds. Children will be able to represent these as written fractions and as drawings. Additionally, children will be taught how to find a quarter, a third, and a half of a given number. Linking this to our division knowledge will be key. We will also teach your children the meaning of unit fractions and non-unit fractions. Furthermore, the children will deepen their knowledge by finding three-quarters of given numbers.

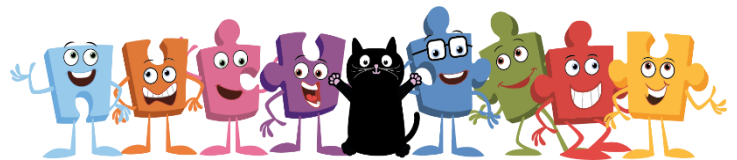


After fractions we will move on and start learning about statistics (learning about pictograms and block diagrams), position and direction (learning about turns, shape movement, and shape patterns). After, we will focus on money (choosing amounts of money, making a pound, and calculating) and time. During our learning about time children will be expected to learn about O'clock and half past, quarter past and quarter to, and to be able to tell the time to 5 minutes.

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE)

Summer 1

As a class we will be learning about 'Relationships'. Our learning will focus on knowing how to make friends and how to handle disputes with friends. We will also learn about families and how different each family can look. Lastly, they will also be able to show appreciation for the relationships they have.



Summer 2

After half term we will move on to 'Changing me'. During our work children will learn about life cycles in nature and what this looks like in humans. We will explore the life of a person and how their responsibilities change as they age. Additionally, we will discuss the physical differences between boys and girls.

Physical education (PE)

This term children will learn about and develop their skills using a racket. Children will practice throwing a ball to a given target, then extending this to hitting a ball using a racket to a given target. Children will also learn how to receive and return a ball and to hold the racket with the correct grip. Additionally, we will learn the rules of tennis and play matches. We will also be visiting South Molton swimming pool this half term to develop our swimming skills in addition to learning about water safety.



After half term we will switch our attention to rounders and athletics. In rounders will practice hitting the ball, moving into space, and using an underarm throwing technique. In athletics we will learn to control our bodies and equipment when throwing, running and jumping. We will also learn the correct technique to land safely whilst jumping in addition to showing the correct pull throw techniques.

Art

In Summer 1, we will be learning about the style of cubism and the work of Paul Klee, particularly his work called 'Castle and Sun'. We will also look at Mary Blair and compare their work, noting similarities and differences. We will create our own cubism inspired castle drawings. We will also learn to use shading, hatching and cross hatching to create a final piece of work. Then we will apply our skills to portraits to create a portrait of kings and queens.



In Summer 2, we will enjoy making recycled sculptures. We will make a knight using wire and tin foil and a castle using recycled materials. We will learn about the work of Anthony Gormley and Michelle Reader.

Design and Technology (DT)

In DT, we will enjoy making free standing structures, deciding how to make our structures strong and experimenting with a range of building techniques to stabilise the building. We will be inspired by the work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and create a new bridge design for the three billy goats after the troll broke their bridge!

Computing

In Summer 1, the children will learn about creative media. They will explore a variety of digital music and identify them with a feeling. They will then practice creating their own digital music using the tablets. We will explore pitch and tempo in an effort to create our own music specifically designed to invoke a chosen emotion.

In Summer 2, we will re-visit what we learnt about programming and use our knowledge to create an online quiz. For this, children will learn about animation, quiz design, running programs and programming.



History

In our 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets' topic we learn all sorts of interesting information. We will learn about the history of castles, what they were made of, how they have changed, and when were they built. Additionally, children will learn about why towers and castles were built? Who needed them? How were they built? Additionally, we will learn about the features and designs of motte and bailey castles, comparing to more modern concentric castles. Identifying their features and purposes will be key to our history learning.



Geography

Linking to our topic, we will explore castles and towers from across the globe. Spotting their similarities and differences, then comparing these to typically British structures will be essential in our learning. Furthermore, we will also learn about impressive structures, such as bridges. We will explore how they work and how important they are to the local area. Finally, we will identify impressive structures from around the world and be able to accurately identify where they can be found on a world map.



Science



In Summer 1 our initial focus will be 'Plants – bulbs and seeds'. Children will learn the differences between seeds and bulbs. When given a selection of food and plants they will also be able to identify which they came from.

Children will also enjoy learning about our 'growing up' unit. Here, the children will develop their knowledge of lifecycles, whether it be a human, butterfly or amphibian life cycle. We will also explore the question, do certain categories of animals have similar life cycles? A key part of this topic will be learning key terminology such as, mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

In Summer 2 we will learn about 'Sustainability – Wildlife'. During our learning we will look at two key questions. What does wildlife do for us? In addition to, what can we do for wildlife? Children will learn about the positive contributions of birds, worms, bees and ladybirds. They will then speculate, plan and create something which positively contributes to our local wildlife.



Religious education (RE)

Children will be learning about 'What was the good news Jesus brought?'. Children will explore a variety of stories from the bible and speculate as to the message it sends. We will also learn about the word 'gospel' and how this also relates to Jesus' good news.

In Summer 2, we will explore the question, how should we care for the world and others? Children will learn about caring, compassionate acts and how this relates to religion. Do all religions have the same view of protecting the world. What differences and similarities can we find between them?

Music

This term in KS1, children will learn to play the ocarina - a 4-hole woodwind instrument. Children will learn to play the first 3 notes, to read dot notation and have the opportunity to compose their own music.

Our topic big event

Castle exploration! The Hedgehog and Squirrel classes will prepare themselves for a trip to a local castle. We will learn about why castles were built and how they defended against invaders. Additionally, children will learn about what life was like inside of a castle. What were the differences between life then and life nowadays.

How can you help at home?

- Listen to your child read daily and ask them questions about what they are reading to develop their comprehension.
- Practice any words that your child finds challenging when reading.
- Home learning activities in their home learning books are designed to enhance their current topics and are an ideal way to aid their learning.
- Engage with TTRS – this will greatly improve your child's multiplication skills and better prepare them for KS2.
- Encourage your child to practice their handwriting. Some worksheets are available on google classroom.
- Practice spellings that are in the back of their home learning books.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr Lovelass