

Magnificent Monarchs

Spring Term

2024-25

Reception and Year 1



Welcome to a Royal Adventure!

This term, we are thrilled to embark on a regal journey with our exciting topic, Magnificent Monarchs! Your child will step into the fascinating world of kings and queens as we explore the incredible story of the English and British monarchy from AD 871 all the way to today.

Our budding historians will dive into timelines to discover when different monarchs reigned, marvel at grand royal palaces, and investigate stunning portraits. Through these historical treasures, they'll build a rich understanding of the lives and legacies of our rulers. As a grand finale, they'll become experts on six of the most significant sovereigns in history!

Get ready for a term filled with discovery, intrigue, and a whole lot of royal fun!

Reading and Read, Write, Inc (RWI) phonics



Reception children have learned to read and write their Set 1 sounds, including special friends, and will now consolidate this knowledge. Later in the spring term, we will begin introducing Set 2 sounds. The children are becoming increasingly confident with 'Fred Talk' (segmenting and blending) to read CVC words and are starting to use 'Fred Fingers' to support spelling. Each child will receive a 'Photocopy Ditties' booklet containing short, decodable stories to practice reading at home and during group sessions at school.



Year 1 children have completed learning their Set 3 sounds and will now focus on consolidating this knowledge by applying it to more challenging multi-syllabic words. We will also review Set 2 and Set 3 sounds throughout the term for deeper reinforcement. The children will advance their 'Fred in your head' skills to read a wider range of words quickly, supporting fluent reading. This fluency will enhance their comprehension, allowing them to better understand characters, plots, and settings. We will further develop comprehension by answering evidence-based questions and making inferences about events and actions in the text.

Literacy, communication and language

In **Reception**, children will engage in sentence-building activities during their ditty sessions, focusing on the importance of using finger spaces and full stops. They will practice spelling words by applying phonics knowledge with the help of 'Fred Fingers.' Literacy teaching is enriched through the use of diverse, high-quality texts that inspire purposeful and meaningful writing opportunities. Role play is encouraged to foster creativity and imagination.



Year One students will follow the 'Ready Steady Write' scheme, focusing on familiar texts like Rapunzel and Old Bear. These lessons will develop foundational writing skills, including instruction writing and grammar awareness. Later in the term, children will build on these skills by learning how to retell stories effectively.

Through these engaging literacy sessions, children in both year groups will enhance their understanding of language structure, storytelling, and creative expression, laying a solid foundation for future literacy success. Children will also participate in high-quality discussions with teachers during story times, where they will explore characters, plots, and settings. A broad range of stories, poems, and non-fiction texts will be shared to stimulate their language development and comprehension skills.

Key texts – relating to our class topic 'Magnificent Monarchs':

Autumn 1	Autumn 2
<p>Non-Fiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pop up Kings and Queens – Rachael Saunders •Kings & Queens: Queen Elizabeth II Edition – Tony Robinson •Castles – Philip Steele •London •Henry VIII (Popcorn: People in History) – Stephen White – Thomson •Queen Victoria (Info Buzz) – Izzi Howell 	<p>Fiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paddington at the Palace – Michael Bond •Ron the Royal Guard - Deano Yipadee •King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table – Marcia Williams •Katie in London – James Mayhew •Rex and Princess Victoria

Maths

At Umerleigh, 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 do simple calculations. As they start to become more familiar with the language used in maths, they will be encouraged to talk about their methods for solving problems and presenting their results. 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.



Reception	Year 1
<p>Spring 1 Alive in 5! Mass and Capacity Growing 6, 7, 8</p>	<p>Autumn 1 Number and place value within 20 Addition and Subtraction within 20</p>
<p>Spring 2 Length, height and time Building 9 and 10 Explore 3D shape</p>	<p>Autumn 2 Number and place value within 50 Measurement (Length and Height) Measurement (Mass and Volume)</p>

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE)

Spring One: Dreams and Goals



In this puzzle piece children will think about all of the things they are good at.

They will consider personal goals and think about 'steps to success' in terms of reaching their goals. They will practice working as a team and how to face new challenges and approaching these with a positive attitude even though they are difficult. We understand that when something is difficult it helps us to 'stretch' our learning. We will consider how we can help others to achieve their personal goals as well as our own and how to persevere when obstacles are in our way.

Spring Two: Healthy me

In this Puzzle piece, children learn about their bodies: the names of some key parts as well as how to stay healthy. They talk about food and that some foods are healthier than others. They discuss the importance of sleep and what they can do to help themselves get to sleep. They talk about hand washing and why it is important. The class also discuss 'stranger danger' and what they should do if approached by someone they don't know. They will learn about healthy and less healthy choices and how these choices make them feel. They explore about hygiene, keeping themselves clean and that germs can make you unwell. The children learn about road safety, and about people who can help them to stay safe.

Physical education (PE)

Spring One: Throwing and Catching, Fitness, and Swimming

Year 1 students will participate in swimming lessons every Wednesday at South Molton swimming pool. The program aims to inspire children to enjoy being in the water while building their confidence. Students will be grouped by ability, and instructors will assess and provide evidence of each child's progress at the end of the six-week course.



In fitness lessons, children will continue developing fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, balancing, and hopping. These sessions will also focus on enhancing physical components, including strength, speed, agility, coordination, and stamina. The children will learn to apply these skills across various activities, promoting overall physical development.

During throwing and catching activities, children will explore moving freely with enjoyment and confidence while demonstrating a range of skilled movements. They will also learn about cooperation, including turn-taking and sharing. The lessons will encourage controlled running, adjusting speed and direction to navigate obstacles safely.

Spring Two: Ball Skills and Swimming

Reception students will also swim every Wednesday at South Molton swimming pool, with a focus on building water confidence and fostering a love of swimming. Children will be grouped by ability, with instructors providing an evaluation of their progress at the end of six weeks.

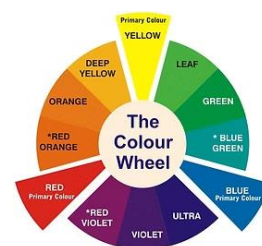
In ball skills lessons, children will practice moving confidently and safely while managing risks associated with equipment use. The focus will be on developing fundamental movement skills, particularly showing control when throwing and catching a large ball. These lessons will also help children build cooperative play abilities, including turn-taking and sharing. Additionally, children will learn to negotiate space, explore different movements, and engage in discussions about the benefits of regular exercise and healthy eating.

Art



In art this term, students will embark on a creative exploration of famous art styles and royal themes, linking directly to our study of "Magnificent Monarchs." Lessons will cover a range of techniques and historical influences, starting with colour theory as children learn to mix primary and secondary colours to create abstract, royal-inspired art. They will delve into portraiture with half-and-half self-portraits, Cubist royal portraits inspired by Picasso, and vibrant Pop Art portraits using Warhol's signature style. Students will further explore splatter painting like Jackson Pollock, Kandinsky's abstract trees for a royal family tree theme, and mono and block printing techniques to create royal symbols and patterns. Each lesson integrates

colour symbolism, emotion, and storytelling, culminating in engaging, dynamic projects that celebrate the grandeur and history of royalty through artistic expression.



Design and Technology



This term in Design and Technology, as part of our Magnificent Monarchs topic, Reception and Year One students will explore royal traditions through food. Our learning objectives include exploring the types of food eaten during different royal periods, planning a fruit salad and vegetable platter inspired by royal feasts or picnics, using safe cutting techniques, working as a team to create a royal-themed spread, and reflecting on the process and outcome. Activities begin with an introduction to royal feasts, discussing historical banquets and the importance of food presentation to show wealth and grandeur. Children will brainstorm fruits and vegetables symbolizing royal themes (e.g., red strawberries for Tudor roses), design

a platter arrangement, and link this to geography by learning where the foods originate. In the next lesson, they'll practise safe cutting and hygiene before preparing their fruit salad and vegetable platter according to their designs. The final session features a royal picnic, where students taste and evaluate their creations, discussing what went well and potential improvements while connecting back to royal history.

French

French Fun this Spring!

This term in French, Reception and Year 1 children will explore exciting new vocabulary and cultural experiences. They will learn animal names, numbers from 11 to 20, and practice using "oui" and "non" with confidence. We'll also dive into delicious party food words and discover how French birthday celebrations differ from English ones. Engaging games, songs, and discussions will bring the language to life, building enthusiasm for learning French while making cultural connections.



Computing



In computing will be exploring 'Moving a robot'. This unit introduces learners to early programming concepts. Learners will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. The unit is paced to ensure time is spent on all aspects of programming and builds knowledge in a structured manner. Learners are also introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

Children will also be introduced to grouping data and using information. They will begin by using labels to put objects into groups, and labelling these groups. Pupils will demonstrate that they can count a small number of objects, before and after the

objects are grouped. They will then begin to demonstrate their ability to sort objects into different groups, based on the properties they choose. Finally, pupils will use their ability to sort objects into different groups to answer questions about data.

Reception children will use simple apps and games on the computer. They will learn to use the basic functions of the computer, including the mouse and the keys.

Music

Magical Music Journeys with Tchaikovsky!

This term in music, Reception and Year 1 children will dive into the enchanting world of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* ballet. They'll explore the captivating story, discover the sounds of different orchestral instruments, and move to the rhythm, pulse, and dynamics of this timeless classic. Focusing on two beautiful pieces from the ballet, children will experience the magic of music through playful activities, storytelling, and imaginative soundscapes that bring the festive adventure of *The Nutcracker* to life!



Understanding the world – Reception



This term, in *Understanding the World*, Reception children will explore two captivating themes: Winter and Long Ago. The Winter topic introduces children to the season's characteristics, weather patterns, and how animals adapt through hibernation and migration. Activities include winter walks, creating seasonal crafts, and conducting simple science experiments like freezing water and making snow. Children will also explore snowy places and the animals that live there, developing geographical awareness and creativity. The Long Ago topic encourages reflection on

how life has changed over time. Children will compare their own growth from babyhood, explore historical objects in a "museum" role-play, and create a timeline of life in the past versus today. This unit fosters curiosity, creativity, and a deeper understanding of time, change, and cultural celebrations.

Additional Foundation Subjects - Year 1 only

History

Our topic *Magnificent Monarchs*, will take children on an exciting historical journey through the lives of significant kings and queens of England and Britain.

In this engaging unit, children will explore the roles and responsibilities of monarchs, develop an understanding of timelines, and examine how monarchy has evolved from the Anglo-Saxon period to modern times. Key figures include Alfred the Great, Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II, and King Charles III. Each lesson combines storytelling, role-play, and creative activities, such as crafting Anglo-Saxon shields, designing Tudor crowns, and creating Elizabethan art. Children will also delve into geographical concepts, locating the UK on a world map and learning about key locations tied to monarchic history. By the end of the unit, students will



consolidate their learning with quizzes, reflection activities, and a gallery showcasing their work, gaining a richer understanding of British history, chronology, and the monarchy's continuing significance today.

Science

In science this half term, we will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. The children will be working scientifically; classifying groups of animals, asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways.

Later in the term, our theme is caring for the planet. The children think about our planet and why it is important to care for it. They explore their role in looking after the planet to create a sustainable future for themselves and future generations. This will enable them to think about the positive impact they can have on the planet, both locally and in the wider world.

Throughout the term, we will care for the plants we have sown as seeds. The children will make observations about their growth, record the changes and identify parts of a flowering plant. They will also look at seasonal changes in spring. The children have previously learnt about autumn and winter and will now explore changes in spring. They will make comparisons between the seasons based on weather patterns, the amount of daylight received and changes in plant and animal life.



Religious education (RE)



This term in RE, children will explore Buddhism and Christianity through lessons that highlight stories, values, and celebrations.

The first half of the term focuses on Buddhism, where children will learn about Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) and the principles of kindness, mindfulness, and compassion. They will look at how the Tibetan New Year is celebrated, and create prayer flags, mandalas, and have a go at role-playing traditional customs.

The second half of the term shifts to Christianity and Easter, where children will discover the significance of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Through storytelling, creative crafts, and reflective activities, they will explore themes of love, sacrifice, and hope, culminating in a class project that answers the question, "Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?".



How can you help at home?

- Encourage your child to be independent in eating, getting dressed, looking after their belongings and going to the toilet.
- Listen to your child read daily and ask them questions about what they are reading to develop their comprehension skills.
- Share stories at bedtime as well as their daily reading practice to encourage reading for pleasure.
- Practice reading their phonics sounds and alien/nonsense words in their blue folder.
- There are some home learning activities in their home-school book if they would like to complete any for their current topic. These are optional but will be celebrated in class.
- Help your child to learn key maths skills through every day, practical activities.

- Encourage your child to practise writing their letters correctly using the tripod grip.
- Ask your children questions about their current topic and discuss their learning.

Thank you for your continued support!