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Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

Engage	Get ready for a visit from some special visitors! 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! We will begin by finding out about castles and the people who lived in them. From Norman invasions and drawbridges and moats, the children will have fun exploring different types of castles and how they were built.
Develop	**Children will then learn about…** **English:** The children will be looking closely at features of non-fiction texts exploring features of castles. They will explore a selection of stories such as The Tunnel, Rapunzel and George and the Dragon. We will become clever writers by using the conjunction because, using an apostrophe, imperative verbs and commas. **DT/Science:** The children will explore different structures such as towers, turrets and tunnels. They will think about which materials would be most suited to building and provide the best defence against attack! This is where all of your junk modelling contributions come into play! **History/Geography:** We will also find out about the engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the impact he had in the world of design and engineering. Plus famous tunnels and events from around the world.
Innovate	You will be tasked with the challenge of using your newfound knowledge to build a fortress for the Three Little Pigs! Your fortress will need to include such features as a lookout tower, a drawbridge, a moat and a secret escape tunnel. Will it protect the pigs? We will be asking for junk modelling so please bring in any boxes, bottles or cartons – anything that can be used to make a fortress!
Express	How will the Big Bad Wolf respond to your fortress? You will be asked to role-play what the wolf might say if he was being interviewed! Finish off the topic by creating an alternative ending for the Big Bad Wolf in his very own story!
Key Vocabulary	Bailey, concrete, curtain wall, engineer, Industrial Revolution, gatehouse, keep, moat, motte, structure, Lord, chivalry, knights, tower, rampart, tunnel, turret, castle, medieval, drawbridge, fortress
Other Areas To Be taught discreetly	**Maths:** We will start with addition and subtraction of both, one and two digit numbers. We will then use this knowledge to solve word problems. After this, we will move onto recognising 2D and 3D shapes, as well as their properties such as number of sides, faces, vertices and lines of symmetry.

	RE: We will be looking at the following key questions: How and why do we celebrate significant times? What makes some celebrations sacred to believers? **Geography:** We will look at simple weather patterns of hot and cold places around the world. **Computing:** We will use different programmes to design and draw castles. We will also look at how we can create music digitally. **PSHE:** We will look at how we can stay safe, kind and aware online. We will also explore how medicines can keep us safe and healthy. We will identify which liquids are safe, and which can be unsafe and harmful. **Music**: As well as practicing singing for our Christmas Nativity, the children will be learning how to play the ocarina.
Knowledge Organisers for this topic can be found on the school website. It outlines the information that your child will need to know and remember at the end of this half term. Enjoy learning with your child! Thank you for your continued support with your child's education.	

Sycamore's Christmas Nativity of Prickly Hay will be on Tuesday 9th December at 14:00 and 17:00.



Towers, Turrets and Tunnels

Home Reading 	Please find time to hear your child read and discuss the contents of their book for at least 10 minutes. We encourage you to do it as often as possible, try to aim for at least three times a week. Children will do Accelerated Reader quizzes once they return their books to school and will be issued with new books as soon as possible. Please fill in your child's reading record book once you have heard them read.
Spellings and handwriting 	Spelling tests are on Mondays with new spellings sent home on a Tuesday. It is important that the children complete all columns and practice regularly at home. All spellings are on our school website. Please encourage your children to join the letters of their sound each week. Other joins learnt in handwriting are on the school website.
PE 	Children will require **a black bottoms and white top** PE kit to be left at school, along with sensible trainers. We will have sessions indoors and outdoors. As the weather is cooler, **black jogging bottoms and a black jumper (no hood)** can be sent in as part of the PE kit. Sycamore 1 and 2 - Mondays and Thursdays. Sycamore 3 and Sycamore 4 – Mondays and Fridays.
Other Information	Children should bring in a named **WATER** bottle to have in the classroom. These will be taken home daily to ensure they are thoroughly cleaned. Please ensure that all uniform including shoes are clearly named.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. You are welcome to email or call the office to speak with your child's teacher who will then contact you as soon as possible.

Humankind | Processes | Creativity | Investigation | Materials | Nature | Place and space | Comparison | Significance | Change

Don't forget to complete your "Big Ideas" Homework Challenge!



Year 2- This Month the *Big Idea* we are focusing on is Comparison

Choose one of the homework challenges to complete at home in November. Bring in your book for your teacher to see your work!

Art critics	Seed spreaders
Explore the Tate Gallery Kids website and watch the videos about different art movements, such as Pop Art and Impressionism. Choose two different movements and write a detailed comparison of them. Include categories, such as the use of colour, significant artists, common materials and tools, sources of inspiration and key dates.	Use a safe web browser to find out about the different ways in which plants spread their seeds to reproduce. Draw and label a clear picture of two different plants and their seeds. What seed-spreading plants do you have around your indoor or outdoor spaces?

Year 2- This Month the *Big Idea* we are focusing on is Significance

Choose one of the homework challenges to complete at home in December. Bring in your book for your teacher to see your work!

Local heroes	Bright idea
Ask an adult to help you to find out about a local hero. This could be someone who works in your school, community, helping people or animals, or looking after the environment. Design a special badge or certificate to say thank you to this local hero. As an alternative, you could find out about a national hero instead.	Find out about the invention of the lightbulb by Thomas Edison. Draw a picture of Edison's lightbulb design and write or talk about what you have discovered. Why not go on a hunt around your house to count how many lightbulbs you can find?