

English – Letter Writing to HRH the Queen

This week we received a letter from the Queen (okay we didn't really – but "the Queen" has set us a task!)

Don't worry we are not building palaces for the Queen – only designing!

Your recycling and furniture is safe this week!

Teach

Activities

Day One

On day one, show the Queen's letter to the children. Read it through with them or get them to read it to you. Can they read it in the Queen's posh voice?

Use the photo sheet to remind children of the details in Buckingham Palace.

The children may want to look up some facts about when it was built – combine with maths to find out how old it actually is. Which King/Queen built it? How many Kings and Queens have lived there?

There are a few videos below where the royals have been on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, these will allow the children to look at the Queen and her family.

Discuss her current London home – Buckingham Palace. What is good about the Palace, what is bad? What do they like, what don't they like?

Think about the vocabulary the children are using to describe the buildings, expose them to new words if you can – historical, architecture, embellished, protect.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6uWa2Yjv9s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVDsopxHKrc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oar4xhftxp8>

The children are to make a list of pros and cons after looking at the pictures of Buckingham Palace and discussing their thoughts.

Pros

The building shows a lot of character and history.

It has a great balcony where all members of the Royal Family can stand and be seen.

It is so wide lot's of tourists can stand outside and see the building easily.

Cons

It's historical features don't fit as well in to modern day London.

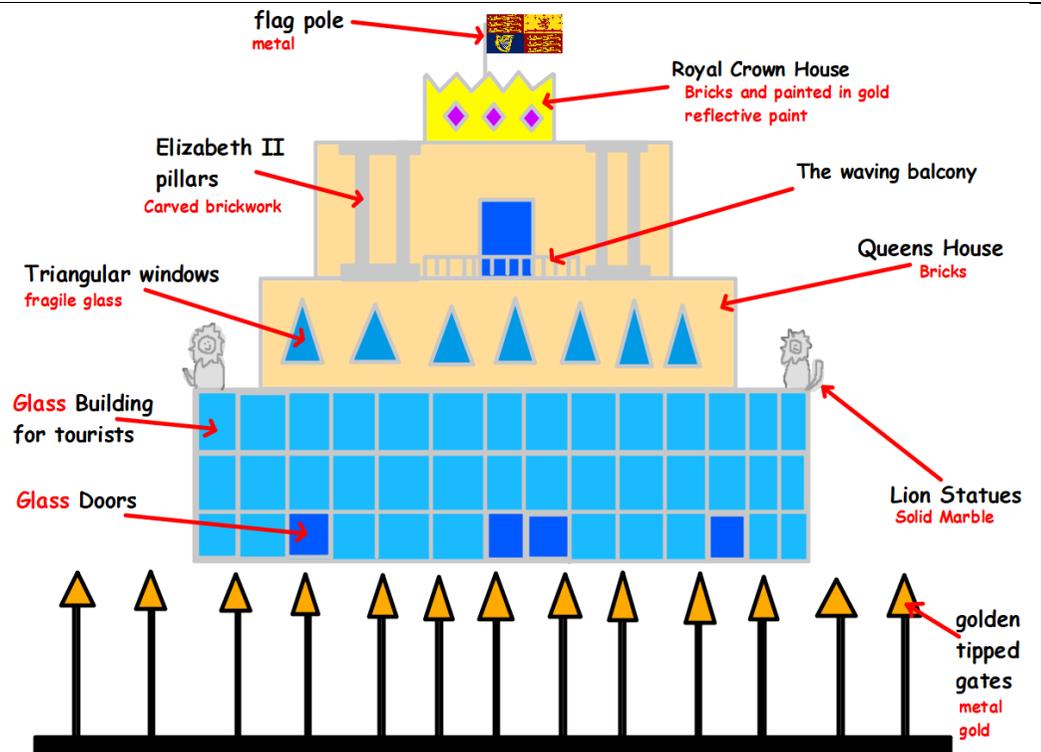
The building is so old it might start crumbling down.

It is a boring colour.

It is a rectangular, cuboid shape which isn't very inventive.

<p>Day Two</p>	<p>Look at the second photo sheet we have provided.</p> <p>There are lots of modern day buildings from around the world.</p> <p>Discuss with your children what makes these buildings memorable.</p> <p>Discuss what you think the buildings might be made of.</p> <p>Use a map to pinpoint where these buildings are from around the world.</p>	<p>Use the map provided or use an online tool like google earth to locate where the buildings have come from around the world.</p> <p>The children can pick a few of the buildings and tell us what they like or dislike about them.</p> <p><i>EG: I really like the triangular shape of the US Cadet Chapel, but I did not like the white colour that was used on the outside of the building.</i></p>
<p>Day Three</p>	<p>Design a building for the Queen!</p> <p>Thinking about all the buildings the children have looked at this week, they should combine the ideas they have been immersed in to plan a new palace for the Queen.</p> <p>Read through her letter again, she definitely said she needed – protective gates, a flag pole and a balcony to wave from, so ensure your child knows what these things are.</p> <p>Get them to think about the positives of Buckingham Palace now – can they incorporate any of these things into their new design?</p>	<p>Let them have fun with their designs, but remember the three essential things the Queen has asked for.</p> <p>Once they have drawn their design, the children should label the materials on the palace that the Queen will need to purchase.</p> <p>See below example.</p>

Once they have drawn their designs, let them talk through them with you and you can help them think about the materials they might use. Use the word bank provided.



<p>Day Four</p>	<p>Now the children have a design it's time to begin writing their letters to the Queen.</p> <p>As we are writing to the Queen and not just to our friends or family, we definitely need our writing to be formal. Explain this term to your children, what is the difference between formal and informal?</p> <p><i>Formal – Very official and proper, well spoken.</i> <i>Informal – More relaxed, casual and familiar with the person receiving.</i></p> <p>If we are writing a formal letter, we need to remember some key features.</p> <p>Show the children a formal letter you have received in the post. The letter has the address of the sender, a date, a “dear...”, the message/information and it ends with a goodbye. See example on the right →</p>	 <p>Today the children will write their address on the right hand side, the date on the left and Dear Queen Elizabeth.</p> <p>Tell the children to write with small controlled handwriting otherwise the address and date can look a bit silly.</p>
<p>Day Five</p>	<p>Today we are going to write the main message of the letter to the Queen.</p> <p>The first sentence should introduce who they are.</p> <p>The 2nd – what they have found out about modern building – eg they have crazy shapes, lots of glass, are always competing to be the next tallest building.</p> <p>Next the children should talk about their design – why is it more modern, does it still have some historical parts? Where is the waving balcony and the flag pole?</p>	<p>See the example letter written on the website!</p>

	<p>They should include what materials the Queen would need to buy to build this Palace.</p> <p>The final sentences should explain what tourists might like about the new Palace.</p> <p>Finally they should sign off their letters, wishing the Queen well and signing their name.</p>	
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