

Kings and Queens Unit Rationale

This unit introduces Reception children to some fundamental ideas about the monarchy, leadership of our country and power. They will begin to understand that our country is ruled by a monarch, the King and that our government are chosen to make decisions for our country. This is just an introduction to this conceptual understanding and these ideas will be returned to throughout the PKC curriculum, particularly in History in KS1 and KS2. As children progress through the curriculum their understanding will grow over time as they learn and remember more.

In 2023, Ofsted noted, 'The early years curriculum does not include formal subjects. However, it does prepare children for later learning in those formal subjects. For example, learning about kings, castles and knights from traditional story books, together with language such as 'a long time ago', helps children to develop foundational knowledge for learning history later on.' This unit has been designed to sow the seeds of understanding for children, introduce key vocabulary and help them to understand what is happening in the world around them.

Children will learn about our monarch, King Charles III. They will become familiar with some key features of our monarchy including people in the Royal Family, special places and traditions. Children will begin to understand that the title of King or Queen is passed down through the Royal Family. This concept will be returned to in Year 1 when children study family trees. Children will recognise the Union Jack and will understand that on special occasions the King wears a crown and sits on a throne. As they move through the unit, children will then learn about royal building such as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. They will recognise the Royal Standard flag. There is an opportunity here for you to include any local buildings with royal connections. Next children will learn about coronations and will learn vocabulary such as orb and sceptre, recognising these important parts of the coronation ceremony. They will listen to Zadok the Priest by Handel, a famous piece of music composed for the coronation of King George II. For the year of 2023 we will take the time to learn about the coronation of King Charles III and support the children's understanding of this special occasion.