



### **Activities at Home**

**Dear Parents,**

**The activity for week 4 beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September is: Buildings and Monuments**

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**The activity that we will be covering involves:**

- To read the book *A Walk In London* together, talking about key monuments that we see-photographs of the buildings will also be provided for the children to compare
  - To use the language of shape and size to discuss the properties of the buildings that we see, and hypothesise about ideal shapes for buildings-which shapes/styles are successful and why
  - To test our predictions about successful building shapes through building our own structures
  - To discuss our own opinions about buildings, and listen to the opinions of others
  - To discuss the materials that buildings are made of, and consider why architects may have chosen to use particular materials
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**Our activity includes:**

- First, the children will listen to the story *A Walk In London* together. Before beginning the story, the children will be given the opportunity to talk about the different buildings that they may have seen in London, before reading the story and seeing if the buildings that we are already familiar with make an appearance. The children will be given lots of opportunities throughout the story to discuss what they can see in the illustrations, and real photographs of the buildings will also be shown to the children at appropriate moments. We will also discuss what these buildings might be used for (e.g. religious, offices, tourism).
- After reading the story, the children will be given the opportunity to discuss the different monuments that they have seen. They will be encouraged to justify why they did or did not like a building, and to listen to the opinions of others, even if these

opinions do conflict with their own; they will be encouraged to understand that it is ok not to agree with everything they hear.

- We will then break into small groups to take part in a range of activities. One activity will involve using the language of shape and size to discuss the properties of different buildings. Photographs will be provided as a prompting point for the children. They will be encouraged to consider the appropriateness of different shapes-for example, they will be asked why they think buildings are usually wider at the top than the bottom. Would the Shard be as good a building if the pointy bit was at the bottom? What might happen? Children will be provided with various construction materials, and will be encouraged to use inspiration from the buildings that we have been looking at, as well as the discussion about shape and size, to create their own building
  - A second activity involves looking at the materials that the monuments in our story were made from. We will discuss how older buildings were made from stone (e.g. Tower of London), and how, as we have learned more about buildings, we have started to build them out of different materials, like completely out of glass (e.g. The Shard). Children will then be given a selection of photographs of London Monuments and will be encouraged to work together to separate them into 'Old' and 'New'. An extra challenge will see if children can work together to order the photographs into a basic timeline!
  - A final activity will encourage children to draw around different pieces of numicon to create their own city skyline! They can then count the 'windows' in the buildings that they draw, and may even be challenged to together windows in different buildings. Children will be encouraged to consider what their buildings are used for, and can even give their new cities a name!
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You might wish to help your child to explore this topic at home or when you are out and about. Please feel free to approach the teachers for further explanations. Our suggested activities are:

- When out and about with your child, discuss different buildings that you pass with them-e.g. the size, shape etc
- Give your child the names of key buildings if you pass them
- Find out different facts about London monuments in factual books

