



EASTNOR CASTLE

MATHS & SCIENCE - KS1

An introduction for teachers

A fun and engaging addition to a group tour. The castle is the basis for exploring sums, shapes and the secrets of light. Children will learn how these elements of their classroom study are relevant to the castle building and how they relate to everyday skills.

The children will be asked to find a giant cube and pace it out, lie down in an Octagon and discover a line of symmetry.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Maths

Courtyard

- Take a good look at the castle, can you see any shapes?
- Can you see a large cube? (Porte Cochere) – shall you go and have a closer look at it – would you like to walk around each side – is it the same number of steps along each side?
- Can you see any cylinders? (Towers) How many can you see from here? (6 depending on position).
- I am holding an A4 piece of paper – can I make this flat piece of paper into a cylinder?
- Everyone turn and look at the Portcullis Building (gatehouse), can you see a line of symmetry? Where is it?

Entrance

- Count the entrance steps as you climb them. How many are there? (14)
- What number do you get if you climb the stairs twice? (28)
- What do you get if you subtract 14 from 28? **or** What is 28 take away 14? (14)
- What do you get if you subtract 7 from 14? **or** What is 14 take away 7? (7)
- What do you get if you add 3 to 7? (10)

Octagon Room

- This room has a very special name. It is named after its shape. Shall we all lie down on the floor and see if we can work out what the shape is? How many sides can you see (8), what is an eight sided shape called? What do you think this room is called? Do you have any funny shaped rooms in your house?



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Science

Octagon Room

- Who knows where the source of light is? Or how does the sunshine get in the room? (windows)
- What happens if we close the shutters (close the shutters so room goes dark)
- (Turn light on with shutters closed) – What is the source of light now?
- Can you see the large mirrors over the two fireplaces? Why do you think they are there? Have you noticed how they are facing the windows? Look what happens when we open the shutters – (light reflects off mirrors).
- Can you see another source of light? Or where else do you think light can come from? (Fireplaces)
- What would people use fires for in houses? (keeping warm, cooking, light).
- In big houses like this one, the families who lived here would employ people specially to look after the fireplaces keeping them clean and in plentiful supply of fuel. What fuel would they use? (Wood & Coal).





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CASTLES & KNIGHTS - KS1

An introduction for teachers

What makes a castle and who is a knight?

Children will spend around 45 minutes exploring and experiencing the castle, learning about what they were used for, the items on display and how to become a knight and live by the code of chivalry.

SAMPLE TOUR

Castle

- Who has heard of the year 1066? Anyone know how long ago the year 1066 was?
In 1066 there was a famous battle called the Battle of Hastings. Has anyone ever been to Hastings?
At the Battle of Hastings, a man called William the Conqueror came over from France and invaded England. How do you think William the Conqueror travelled from France?
William the Conqueror won the Battle and took over as king and he immediately introduced a new kind of building. This building was so new to England that nobody who lived here had ever seen anything like it before. It was like a spaceship landing in your local town or village. Do you know what this new building was? It was a castle!
Before 1066, there had never been a castle built in this country before.
Why do you think William The Conqueror wanted to build all these brand-new castles? It was to control the people who lived in this country to stop them rebelling and getting rid of him as King.
What do you think a castle was originally for? It was for defence, you would be safe in a castle if someone attacked you and you could attack them from behind your huge stone walls.
Can anyone think of any famous castles?
- Castles were often built by rivers, why do you think this is?
 - Goods transported up and down rivers – no motorway
 - Fishing
 - Help in case of fire

Eastnor is not built by a river but by two small streams which feed the lake you will see later. Eastnor was not built during the time when it needed to survive/withstand a siege but to simply live in.



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- Eastnor Castle and other castles were also often built on hills or mounds. If there was not a hill that could be used, they would build an artificial hill call a Motet. Why do you think they liked building castles on hills/mottes? (hold up picture of a castle with Motte & Baily).
 - Better defensive position – you can see your enemy coming from further away
 - Harder to attack
- Originally, castles were built from wood. This meant they could be very quickly built but also meant they could easily burn down!
During the 1100's (how long ago do you think the year 1100 was?) all castles started to be built in stone.
- Look at the outside of Eastnor Castle, can you see a round tower at each corner of the main building? Why do you think there is a round tower at each corner?
When you attacked a castle, you would sometimes dig a tunnel under a corner. Once you had dug so far what do you think happened to the corner of the castle? That corner would fall down! Why do you think that was a problem for the people inside of the castle? If the corner fell down it would mean the people attacking the castle could easily get inside.
So why put a round tower at each corner? Any ideas?
If you tunnel under a round corner (a round tower), the corner is a lot less likely to collapse because it is a stronger shape. This meant the castle was a stronger building and harder to break into. Do you think this is a good thing for the people inside? How about the people attacking the castle?
- What do you think was all around the castle building to make it harder to attack? Castles had things call Moats (hold up a picture of castle with a moat on). What would you need to do to get to the castle if it had a moat all the way around it?
- So, if you wanted to gain access to the castle without getting wet, what would you need? You would need a bridge. Castles would have a bridge which would be lifted up if the people inside the castle felt they were in danger. This bridge is called a Draw Bridge. Shall we go and have a look at where it would have been (go to outer side of Portcullis Building).
- We call this building The Portcullis. A Portcullis is something which would have been on buildings like this one. What do you think a Portcullis is? A Portcullis is a large gate which would have been lowered down behind the closed Drawbridge. If the attacking enemy got past the drawbridge before it closed the Portcullis would have stopped them.
- If we were arriving at Eastnor Castle and we wanted to attack it right now, we would see the drawbridge down ready for us to cross, the portcullis gate wide open and no one around to stop us! Shall we attack the castle? What I want you all to do is let me hear how loudly you
- can roar. Brilliant, now I want to see you pretending to wave your swords in the air while your roar. Fantastic! Now let's attack the castle (get them to run up to the front door roaring and waving their pretend swords).



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- What do you think this room is called? It is called the Great Hall. In a medieval castle the word “Great” simply meant “Large” so when you say “Great Hall” you actually mean “Large Hall”. Do you think this is a good name for this room? Do you have a room as big as this in your house?
- What do you think the great hall was used for? Think about what you do in your own house. Where do you sit and relax? (sitting room), Where do you eat (dining room/kitchen table), where do you sleep? (Bedroom). The Great Hall is where all this happened in the medieval home/castle. You would eat in here, relax in here and some members of the household would even sleep in here. Today, we still use this room for relaxing and entertaining people (show a pic of it set up for wedding breakfast).
- Have a look around, how many fireplaces can you see? Originally, a medieval Great Hall didn't have a fireplace. Where do you think the fire to keep warm would have been? It would have been in the middle of the room (show an image of a fire in middle of a great hall). Everyone would gather around the fire in winter. If there was no fireplace but a fire in the middle of the room, where would the chimney have been for the smoke to escape from? There would not have been a chimney. The smoke would have gone all the way up into the ceiling and eventually made its way of opening and through the tiles on the roof. Do you think the room would have become rather smoky and smelly with all that smoke in the room? As time went on they introduced air vents for the smoke to escape through until they eventually built chimney stacks with fireplaces which made rooms like this much cleaner.
From around the 15th century onwards houses started having specific rooms for specific functions much like we have today. Let's go and have a look at where the household started eating but before we do who would like to see some suits of armour which medieval knights would have worn?

Knights

- Not everyone could become a knight. A knight was usually the son (Jack) of a nobleman and his future would be planned right from birth. Jack's parents would be expected to teach him good manners and loyalty. Jack would be taken to see events like jousting tournaments.
- Who here is 7 years old? If you were becoming a knight you would become a “Page” at the age of 7. A Page is a boy would serve the Lord and Lady of the castle. While working as a page, Jack would be given an education (not all boys and girls got an education) and be taught about riding on a wooden horse before getting on a real one. Jack would practice fighting with a wooden sword (have one to show and get them, to pass around).
- How many years until you are 14 years old? At the age of 14 Jack would become a squire and act as a servant to a knight (point out the squire's suit of armour which Jack would wear).
- While a squire, Jack would learn about polite manners and dancing. Dancing was an important part of life because it was a way of socialising. It was also a lot of fun.



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- How many years until you are 21 years old? When Jack is 21, he will become a knight. As a knight he would be expected to lead battles and act in a brave and courteous manner. Knights were expected to follow a behaviour code called the code of chivalry.

- The Knights Code of Chivalry from the Middle Ages was a moral code which went beyond the normal rules of combat and required knights to make the following vows:
 - To fear God and maintain His Church
 - To serve the local lord in valour and faith
 - To protect the weak and defenceless
 - To give support to widows and orphans
 - To not cause offence
 - To live by honour and for glory
 - To despise monetary reward
 - To fight for the welfare of all
 - To obey those placed in authority
 - To guard the honour of fellow knights
 - To not act with unfairness, meanness and deceit
 - To keep faith
 - At all times to speak the truth
 - To persevere to the end in any project begun
 - To respect the honour of women
 - Never to refuse a challenge from an equal
 - Never to turn the back upon a foe

To this day, you hear people say “Isn’t he chivalrous” when a man behaves in an especially polite and respectful way.

Coats of Arms

- Have a look at the suits of armour. How do you think you could tell who was inside? When in battle a knight would have his family coat of arms painted on his shield. This would mean



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- you would always know who it was in the armour. Can you see all the coats of arms on the Dining Room ceiling? What can you spot?
- Many coats of arms had the family motto included. Do you know if your school has a motto?



HOMES, HOUSES & GARDENS - KS1

An introduction for teachers

What were servants and what did they do? What is a Porte-Cochère and why are there so many of the letter “S” hidden in the castle? A tour of Eastnor Castle explores what makes it a family home and how it worked, what the servants did and what makes Eastnor different from the normal modern day home.

Children will spend around 45 minutes exploring and experiencing the castle state rooms, learning about what they were used for, the items on display and how the state rooms are different from the children’s own homes.

SAMPLE TOUR

Servants

- Servants worked for the family who owned the “big” house. There were also servants who worked in much smaller houses. Being a servant was hard work, a servant had a specific job to do within the house and had to do it to the highest standards. Often servants would get



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- up at 5am and not go to bed again until midnight. Although hard work, a servant got free accommodation and food. They had no bills to pay and so could save money if they were careful.
- Servants had to attend to anything and everything the family wanted without question.
- The women servants slept in the very top of the house – often in the attics. The men slept downstairs in the cellars.
- Some country houses had up to 60 servants working inside a house at any time – most also living there. One hundred years ago there were 25 servants at Eastnor (list below)

Head Gardener	(William Coleman) In charge of looking after the grounds around the house. The Head gardener is an expert in gardening.
Under Gardener	(William Nash) Works with the Head Gardener. He is not as experienced as the Head Gardener but still has an excellent knowledge of gardening.
Apprentice Gardener	Works alongside the Head & Under Gardeners learning on the job.
Porter x2	Usually an early teenager, would carry out some footman duties and checked building security.
Domestic Steward	Responsible for the domestic administration of a house.
Butler	(John Hodges) Responsible primarily for the cellar and had an extensive knowledge of alcoholic beverages, and most aspects of dining and entertainment. The Butler was also responsible for the male household staff.
Under Butler	(Henry Lewis) Assisted the Butler in his duties.
Footman x 2	(Henry Sargent & David Day) Only the grandest households had Footmen. Footmen were largely to show the status of a house so employed good looking, tall men as footmen. Usually the footmen performed a range of duties which included serving meals, opening and closing doors, carrying heavy items, or moving furniture for the housemaid to clean behind. The footmen might also double as valets, especially for visiting guests.
Cook	(Lepancois Galand) Private chef for the household.
Kitchen Maid	(Margaret Tuck) Reported to the Cook, and assisted in running the kitchens. Light the kitchen fires and boil water for the family to use to wake when they wake up. Keeps the kitchen and surrounding areas clean and tidy.



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Coachman	Looks after the transport for the house (horse and carriage and later car). He is responsible for maintenance and for taking members of the family from location to location.
Groom	Looks after the castle horses.
Housekeeper	(Ann Hall) Most senior female member of staff, oversees the day to day domestic arrangements and is in charge of the female staff. She usually had a large bunch of keys attached to her waist for every door in the house.
Housemaid x4	(Alice Barnett, Liley Anderson, Eliza Carver & Isabella Yeoman) Perform any combination of light cleaning duties in a clean and orderly manner. Duties include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, and floors.
Ladies Maid	(Emily Allison) A senior servant who reported directly to the lady of the house, but ranked beneath the Housekeeper, and accompanied her lady on travel.
Scullery Maid	(Mary Edwards) The lowest grade of "below stairs" maid, reporting to the cook, the scullery maids were responsible for washing cutlery, crockery, and glassware, and scrubbing kitchen floors, as well as monitoring ovens while kitchen maids ate their own supper.
Laundry Maid	Maintained bedding and towels. They also washed, dried, and ironed clothes for the whole household, including the servants.

- How many staff work in your house? Why do you think big houses now have fewer (if any) household staff?)

Castle Kitchen

- We are starting our tour right here in the old kitchen. Can anyone see the cooker which the castle cook would have prepared the meals on?
- You will see that the windows are very high up – why do you think this is? When cooking on solid fuel fires like the one in the fireplace, there would have been a lot of heat produced making the room very hot. Do you think hot air rises to the ceiling or falls to the floor? The windows are high to help let the hot air out and keep the kitchen well ventilated. They also let in a lot of natural light.
- Why do you think the kitchen is so far away from the castle? It is firstly because of the risk of fire. The oven you can see over there is heated with solid fuel meaning there is a fire inside. If the kitchen caught fire it could be put out without endangering the castle. If the kitchen was in the cellar of the castle and caught fire, what do you think would happen to the
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castle? Secondly, who can smell all the lovely things your mummy & daddy are cooking when they are in the kitchen? Many years ago, the families who lived in big houses like Eastnor didn't like the smells and the sounds that came from the kitchens. Having the kitchen further away reduces the chance of being able to smell or hear things.

- What do you think a State Room is? A state room is a room which is design to impress visitors to a house like Eastnor. A State Room is a room which is the most impressively decorated in a house and where the owners of a house would show off their most important and expensive possessions. Shall we go into the castle and have a look at the State Rooms we have here?

Porte-Cochère

- What do you think this structure is called? What do you think it is for? It is for carriages to park under while guests of the castle get in and out; stopping them from getting wet if it is raining.
- Everyone stop and rub your feet on the gravel – can you hear it making a noise? How I want you all to do the same under the Porte-Cochère. Can you hear a difference in the noise being made? Can you all see what you are standing on? You are standing on paving made from wood. These wooden paving blocks were put here to deaden the sound of horses and carriages as the came through.

Great Hall

- Have a look around, how many fireplaces can you see? Originally, a medieval Great Hall didn't have a fireplace. Where do you think the fire to keep warm would have been? It would have been in the middle of the room (show an image of a fire in middle of a great hall). Everyone would gather around the fire in winter. If there was no fireplace but a fire in the middle of the room, where would the chimney have been for the smoke to escape from? There would not have been a chimney. The smoke would have gone all the way up into the ceiling and eventually made its way of opening and through the tiles on the roof. Do you think the room would have become rather smoky and smelly with all that smoke in the room? As time went on they introduced air vents for the smoke to escape through until they eventually built chimney stacks with fireplaces which made rooms like this much cleaner.

From around the 15th century onwards houses started having specific rooms for specific functions much like we have today. Let's go and have a look at where the household started eating.

- Potential Activity – Who can spell GREAT HALL? Can you think of a sentence to describe the Great Hall?
- Do any of you have a Great Hall in your house?



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Red Hall

- Do any of you collect things? What do you collect? Well, the 3rd Earl Somers (b. 1819 – d. 1883) collected all sorts of things that would look good in the castle. The armour here is part of his collection (possible link to Castle & Knights topic).
Show off the strong box and decorated sword

Dining Room

- This is the dining room. Have a look at the size of the table. How many people do you think will fit around this table for a grand dinner? (x24). Have you ever seen a Dining Table as long as this? Why don't you walk around it to see how many footsteps it takes?

When there was a dinner party at the castle all the guests would sit around the table and house staff would serve the food. On the table would be the family silver which showed off how wealthy the family were.

Can you all remember what I said about why the kitchen where we started our tour was built so far from the main castle and dining room? Haven't we walked a long way to get here. Can you all imagine walking that far with lots of heavy plates and hot food?

Gothic Drawing Room

- Before we talk about this room, I want you all to have a look at the decoration and see how many colours you can count in this room.
- This room is called the Drawing Room. What do you think Drawing Room means? A Drawing Room used to be called a Withdrawing Room. The family living here and their houseguests would "withdraw" from dinner (ladies first). The gentlemen would be left to talk in the dining room before joining the ladies in the Drawing Room.
- Can you see the family tree above the fireplace? What do you think a family tree is?
- Below the family tree, can you see the family coat of arms?
- I want you all to have a look around the room and tell me where you see the letter "S" hidden. 3rd Earls surname "Somers" is represented by the letter "S".
- Do you have a Drawing Room? If not, which room in your home is most like a Drawing Room (Sitting Room). What do you do in it?

Octagon Room

- This room has a very special name. It is named after its shape. Shall we all lie down on the floor and see if we can work out what the shape is? How many sides can you see (8), what is an eight sided shape called? What do you think this room is called?
- If you lived in a house like this and wanted to call a servant, how would you do it? Can you see the little handle by the fireplace, if you needed a servant, you would ring for them using the servants bell. Who would like to try ringing it? Could you hear anything? There is a line



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of bells in the servant's area of the castle (show picture) which would ring to alert the staff that they were required.

- Everyone have a look out the windows, can you all see the lake. Where do you think the staff at the castle got ice from when it was needed? Years ago, we used to get very cold winters which made the lake freeze. Men would go out and cut the ice into blocks and put them into an underground building called an Ice house. They would need to be very careful on the frozen lake in case they fell through so was a very dangerous job. They would put ice, then straw, then ice, then straw in layers until the Ice House was full. The ice would stay cold all year because it was under ground and didn't get warm enough to melt. When needed the

servants would need to walk all the way to the Ice House to get some ice in buckets to bring back to the house to use. What do you think they needed to use ice for? (You can go to the Ice House later to see how far from the house it is). (Show picture of ice being cut from lake).

- Do you think the people who work here still have to get ice from the lake? What do you think we now have in our houses which means we don't need to get ice from the lake?

Long Library

- What do you think this room is called?
- How many syllables (beats) does the word "Library" have? (3)
- How many books do you have in your house? When you want to buy a new book is it easy to do it? Many years ago books were extremely expensive. If you were lucky enough to own a book you treasured it. Owning books was a sign of wealth if you had more than a few so having a room full of books like this one was quite something. In Hereford Cathedral there is a library from medieval times which has all its books chained to the bookcases so people cannot steal them. How many books do you think are at Eastnor? (5000).
- Having a private library like this one was something only the very rich could afford. To show off their book collection to the very best, the owners of a library like this one would spend lots of money decorating the room so the library always looked beautiful. What can you see in here which you think is beautiful? (Maybe show carvings on fireplaces and details on woodwork – also show some pictures of other impressive libraries).
- A library was a great place to show off your most interesting possessions. Can you see anything you think is interesting? (talk about what they spot).
- The model ship was made by French prisoners of war in 1794. What do you think it is made from? The white part of the ship is made from animal bone. Where do you think this would have come from (food/joints of meat). Can you all see the canons? How do you think these were made? (rolled up brass buttons). Who knows what rigging is? Can you see the rigging on our ship – what do you think that is made from (human hair).



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Small Library/Billiard Room

- This room has got two names – can you guess what they might be? (The Little Library & The Billiard Room). Why do you think it is called The Little Library? Why do you think it is called The Billiard Room? Gentlemen would come into the Billiard Room to play a game of Billiards, listen to music and generally relax while their lady friends and wives would relax in the Gothic Drawing Room.

State Bedroom

- The State Bedroom was reserved for only the most important visitors to stay at the castle.
- The 3rd Earl (Charles Somers Cocks b. 1819 – d. 1883) was the man who designed the castle interiors we have just seen. This is the bedroom he made for himself before it was used for important visitors.
- The 3rd Earl and his wife wanted to have a really luxurious bedroom so they had their own wallpaper made. Have a close look, can you see a letter hidden in the design? (S). Can you remember what the S stands for? (The S stands for the 3rd Earls surname “Somers”).
- Have a look at the fireplace. Can any of you read what is carved into the stonework? (“Specs nescia vinci” meaning “Hope knows no defeat”). This is the family motto. Why do you think families had a family motto? A family motto is a slogan or guiding principle a family or organisation uses. Does your school have a motto?





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THE LIVES OF SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS - KS1

An introduction for teachers

The history of our country is made up of countless individuals who have had to have worked hard to make life better in some way. Sometimes Kings & Queens, and sometimes people who have a strong vision of how to make life better for the people around them.

During a tour of the castle, visiting children will spend around 45 minutes exploring and experiencing the castle state rooms, learning about what they were used for, the items on display and how the state rooms are different from the children's own homes. They will find out who Lady Henry Somerset or Queen Mary of Teck were and what they did to improve the lives of those who they came into contact with. Both are unusual as they were influential women in a man's world who made an impact and both had links to Eastnor Castle.

SAMPLE INFORMATION - LADY HENRY SOMERSET & QUEEN MARY OF TECK

Lady Henry Somerset

Lady Isabella Caroline Somers-Cocks (b.1851 – d.1921)

During Victorian times, local towns and villages had a bad problem with people getting drunk and becoming violent. When some people got paid at the end of the week, they would spend all their money in the pub instead of rent and food for their families. This led to lots of people becoming very poor, not having enough to eat and in some cases, not having anywhere to live. In those days there was very little help for people who fell on hard times. If you had no money then you couldn't eat. Can you imagine having to go to bed night after night very hungry but still having to do a hard day's work during the day?

LHS became worried about people living locally who kept getting into this situation and getting their families into financial difficulties, so she joined a special club called the Temperance Movement. Who knows what the Temperance Movement was? The Temperance Movement was a club or society which promoted the advantages of living a life with no alcohol.

LHS became president of the British Woman's Temperance Association and tried to help women who had their lives ruined by drunkenness.

LHS opened a special village in Surrey called Duxhurst which was a place of refuge for women who were recovering from drunkenness and needed to rebuild their lives in a safe and secure location. LHS built a collection of thatched cottages arranged in a horseshoe around a village green. Each



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housed 6 - 8 women, many of whom came from very poor backgrounds. The village had a hospital, where each new patient was assessed. There were laundries, workshops, a dairy farm, gardens, greenhouses, lavender fields – even a pottery. For Lady Henry Somerset believed that the women should be usefully occupied, but in a setting as far removed from their previous life as possible.

LHS also opened a children's home in Duxhurst & Eastnor for children who had been affected by violent homes.

LHS built a chapel for the residents of Bye Street in Ledbury (near the swimming pool) where its residents would go to church and where her temperance movement could be based in the locality.

A lady of strong principles, she never shirked from doing what she believed to be right, even where this made her unpopular. When she died, rich and poor alike felt they had lost a true friend.

LHS believed: *Action was required; action which made a real difference to the lives of real people, whatever their class or rank in society; action which proved without words that each person was valued, whatever their circumstances.*

Famous Visitor – Queen Mary of Teck

(b. 1867 – d. 1953)

- Grandmother of our current Queen & great-great grandmother of Princess William & Harry.
- Queen of the United Kingdom & The British Dominions and Empress of India (1910 – 1936).
- Wife of King George 5th (Queen Victoria's grandson).
- Crowned at Westminster Abbey in 1911
- Had six children, two of which would be king's within her lifetime, King Edward 8th who Abdicated and King George 6th (Queen Elizabeth 2nd's Father).
- During WW1 & 2, Queen Mary visiting injured and dying soldiers in hospital.
- During WW2 she arranged scrap metal collections to be used to manufacture, planes, tanks and bombs to help us win the war.
- When she saw soldiers walking along the road she would give them a lift in her Rolls Royce car. What would you think if our Queen offered you a lift in her car?
- Used to take her granddaughters, Princess Elizabeth (our current queen) and Princess Margaret to art galleries and museums.