**Cheri’ane**: Hello and welcome to Class 2’s Assembly. Please stand up for the hymn.

**Prushoth**: Lovely singing. Please sit down.

**James**: We have been learning about history in our local area. Here is a song about some of the important historical buildings in London.

*All sing the song.*

**Julia G:** When we learn about local history, we are very lucky because there are so many important and historic buildings near to where we live.

**All:** Tower Bridge. The Shard. Borough Market. The Golden Hinde. The Globe. The Tate Modern. The South Bank.

**Nahum:** But today we are going to teach you about the oldest and most important building near to us. Can you guess what it is?

**Teddy**: We are going to teach you all about the Tower of London in 10 Amazing Facts.

**Daniel**: Some of these facts will be interesting, some facts will be scary and some facts will be gruesome!

**Suriya**: Fact Number 1 – The Tower started life in 1078 when William the Conqueror built The White Tower to celebrate his victory at the Battle of Hastings.

**Teddy**: For the next 500 years the Kings and Queens of England used The Tower of London as their main palace. Different kings, including Richard the Lionheart, added extra buildings to The Tower and it became the strongest castle in the whole country.

**Kristian**: Fact Number 2 – That all changed when Henry VIII became King. He moved out of the Tower of London and turned it into a prison.

**Albert**: Henry had two of his wives imprisoned at the Tower. First it was Anne Boleyn and, later, her cousin – Catherine Howard. Unfortunately they were both executed and there is a legend that their ghosts still live in The Tower. How scary!

**Ruby**: For the next 400 years, The Tower was famous for being a prison for people that the King didn’t like. Off with their head!

**Justice**: Fact Number 3 - On the 5th of November every year we remember another person who was a prisoner in The Tower. Does anyone know who it was?

**Arianna**: Guy Fawkes was sent to The Tower in 1605 after The Gunpowder Plot against King James had failed. Off with his head!

**Fatimah**: Fact Number 4 – Even one of England’s greatest explorers wasn’t saved from The Tower. In 1604, Sir Walter Raleigh who had sailed to America on The Golden Hinde was sent to The Tower because Queen Elizabeth I didn’t like him.

**Livia**: Fact Number 5 – The last people sent to the prison in The Tower were Nazis who were captured during WW2.

**Julia C**: Also, during WW2 The Tower got damaged during the Blitz when lots of bombs fell on London but fortunately the buildings were repaired.

**Jeremy**: But let’s rewind back into history for our next fact. Fact Number 6 – The Tower used to be home to The Royal Mint and all the money that was used in the whole country came from inside The Tower.

**Amari**: The Royal Mint was making money inside The Tower for over 500 years until the time of Queen Victoria. Did you know that famous scientist Sir Isaac Newton used to be in charge of the Royal Mint? Oh that’s interesting!

**Abe**: Now let’s talk about another one of the famous legends about The Tower. Fact Number 7 – special black birds called ravens live at The Tower and there is a legend that if the ravens ever leave The Tower then the whole of the country will be conquered. Let’s make sure those ravens are kept safe!

**Kaijaun**: Speaking of animals, did you know that The Tower of London used to be home to elephants? How exciting!

**Joel**: Fact Number 8 – The Tower used to be home to the Royal Zoo where the Kings and Queens kept exotic animals as pets.

**Emmanuel**: Elephants, lions, leopards and polar bears have all called the Tower home. Look at these vibrant and colourful masks we made in class. We actually made these Indonesian masks during International Week.

**Shawn**: Now let’s go back in time for Fact Number 9. Since the time of Henry III, the Crown Jewels have been kept at The Tower of London.

**Arianna**: The Crown Jewels are very special and they represent the wealth of the country. They are extremely precious and they are guarded by the famous Beefeaters who have protected The Tower for centuries.

**Caitlyn**: The Crown Jewels are very popular with tourists and the queue to see them can sometimes take hours.

**Julia G**: Fact Number 10 involves another popular tourist attraction. In 2014, The Tower of London was used to remember the 100 year anniversary of the start of WW1.

**Justice**: Artists called Tom Cummins and Tom Piper used 1000s of metal poppies to help everyone remember the people who lost their lives during The Great War.

**Nahum**: Put your hand up if you saw the poppies at The Tower two years ago. Thank you. Now put your hand up if you have ever visited The Tower. Thank you. Now put your hand up if you’ve learnt something new about The Tower today. Thank you very much.

**Cheri’ane**: Please join us in a prayer based on our assembly. Thank you Lord for the fantastic opportunity to live near such amazing places. We will make sure that we take every chance to learn from amazing buildings like The Tower of London. Amen.

**Caitlyn**: Lord’s Prayer and Zimbabwe prayer