

Building Test



When we design buildings,
we test them to see how well they work.
By **'work'** we mean **do they work well for the
people that use them?**

Can you do a test of **PRIMARY?**

We will put together the
pictures, sound recordings and **drawings** you make
about how the building makes you feel
to help other people understand the building,
especially people who may have never been before.

We will ask you to record what you find in lots of different ways,
like by making a **voice recording**,
drawing a picture or by **describing something**.


We will also ask you to test things out by using different
materials in your **testing kit**.

We are interested in finding out what you think
so there isn't a right or wrong answer,
just what you feel and your own journey the building.

Just outside the building, let's start the test! You will need your kit.

Your kit includes some things to explore to help you think about how you feel in the building.

It includes:

- A thermometer
 - A voice recorder
 - Some long poles e.g. pool noodles
 - Some short sticks or pipe cleaners
 - Some graphite pencils and newsprint paper
 - A colour swatch
 - A camera
 - A mirror
 - A tape measure
 - The entrance
- 

If recording something doesn't work in one way for you, perhaps you could try another, for example if you don't like **writing** much but like **drawing** instead, then that's what you should do.

If you don't like making **voice** recordings, perhaps you could **write** something instead.

The very first thing we want you to look at is 'getting in'

- How do you get into the building?
Can you take a picture?

- If you have anything to say about the entrance, that would be good too:
did you know where it was before you were told?

- There are lots of questions about the entrance, like is the door light or heavy, can you open it?

- Make a voice recording, take a picture or write or draw about this.

- Once you are inside do you know where to go?

- Are there signs? Where are they,
are they at a height you can see them?

- Take some pictures or draw some pictures or write about this.

You will explore the building with your leader.



**Now you are inside,
let's think about feeling stuff
and finding stuff out!**



Feeling Stuff

Can you have a think about how you feel when you have stepped in the building, there isn't a right or a wrong answer to this - we are just interested in finding out.

Are there any things in the building that you notice make a **sound**?

You will need to be quiet to find them, for example:

- a buzzing fridge,
- water running through pipes,
- a gurgling tap,
- sometimes lighting makes a sound!



Make a **voice recording** and think about how it makes you feel.

If the building made an imagined sound, what sound or sounds would it make?

Where is there an echo?

Where is your voice muffled?

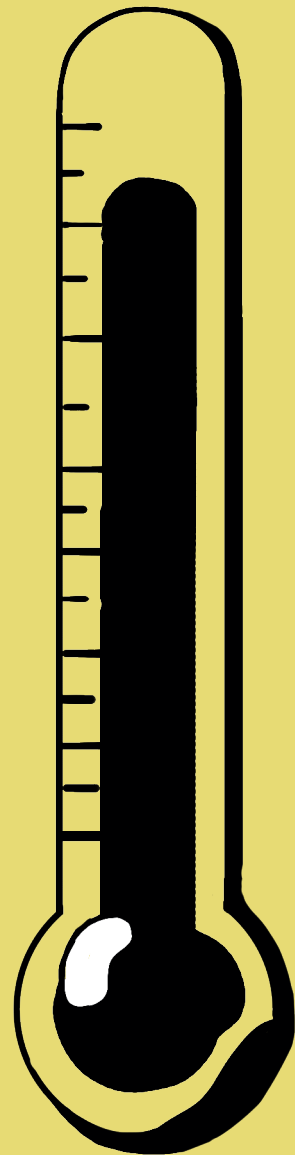
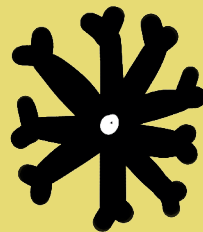


Test the temperature of the thermometer in three different inside spaces.

Which is the **hottest**, record the temperatures.

And take a picture of the **coldest** space, why do you think it is cold?

(An inside space should be between **18** and **22** degrees Celsius)

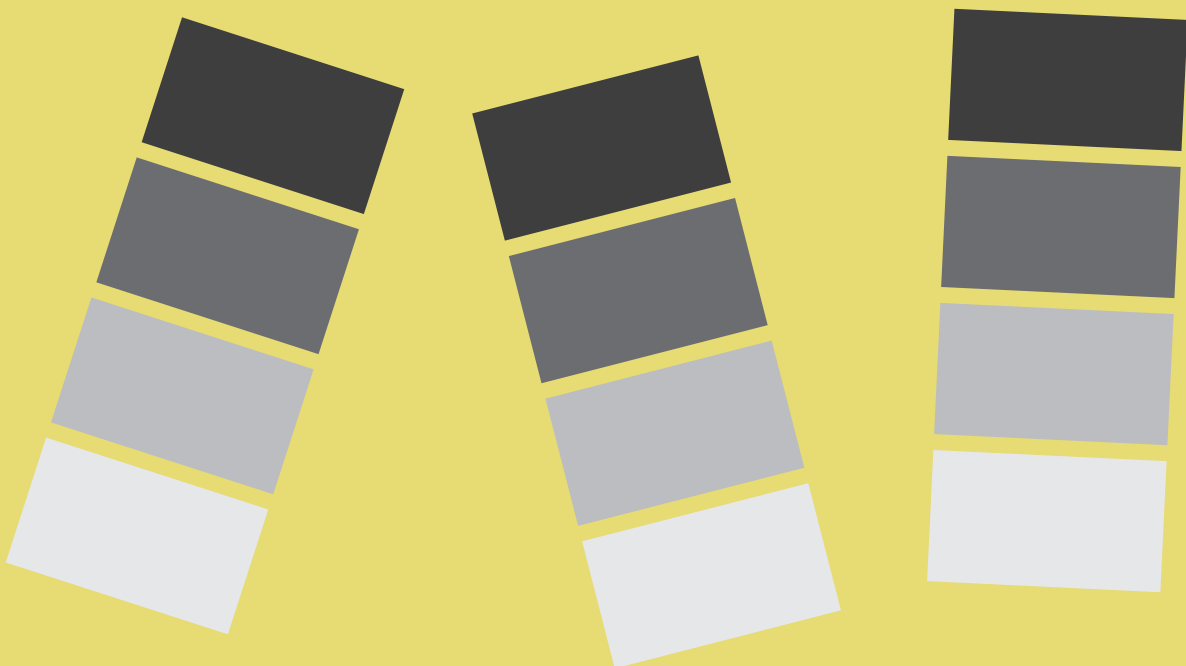


What are the colours of the building as you step inside?

Can you take a picture of the inside of the building – think about the corridor to the open space.

You may want a colour swatch to help you.

Can you make a swatch of the colours in the building, the best way to see them is to half close your eyes, this will help you to see the main colours.



Where do I go in the building when I want to be **quieter?**

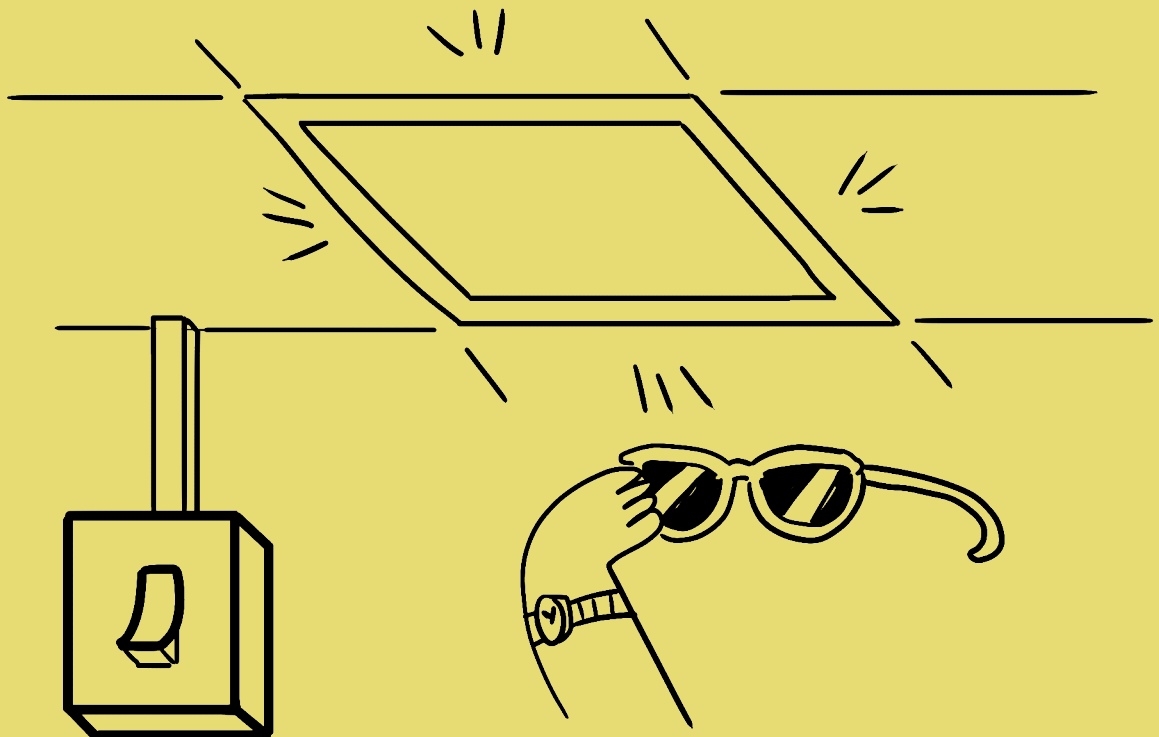
Can I find somewhere that is quiet that would be good for other people who might like to be **quiet?**



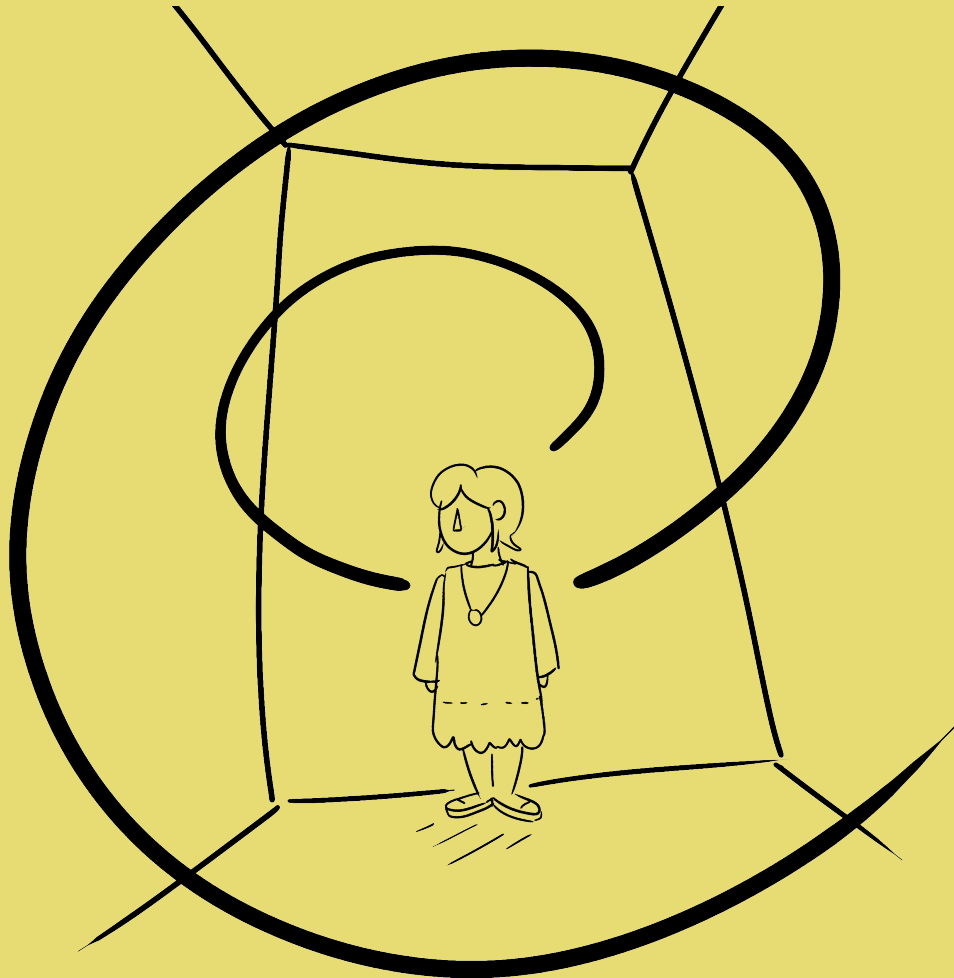
Have a look at the lighting in Primary,
it might feel different in the evening to during
the day.

What do you think about the lighting,
can you change it – if so, how?

Where is the **brightest** place in the building?
Can you tell me if you like the brightest place?



Is there a space that makes you feel **small**?
Sometimes when we go in big spaces,
we feel small in comparison,
can you take a picture?



Is there a space where you feel **big**?
Can you take a good picture from the floor looking up,
so other people who haven't been to the space
know how the space feels too?

Some things to try

- Can you add long poles or short poles to your hands (e.g. pool noodles or pipe cleaners... or other safe material)
- Can you use these to extend your touch, what surfaces of the building are smooth, what surfaces are hard, what surfaces vibrate fast when you walk past them.
- Which are your favourite surfaces?
Take a picture.



Using your **mirror** for this:

in the building, find a part of the building that has lots of **lines** in it, this could be where a roof meets a wall, where a notice board overlaps a door, there are lines everywhere.

See how many lines you can get in your reflection, count them and take a photo.

If you can manage it,
a photo of the reflection would be lovely!



Finding Stuff

Do some rubbings of the building, inside or outside.

You can do a rubbing by holding a piece of paper up to a surface and carefully using a pencil to get shading of what is underneath, you will need to find a surface that isn't smooth.

Take some photos of the textures you have found.



In a group of three, can you try slowly moving up the corridors with your arms outstretched, is there enough room for three of you?



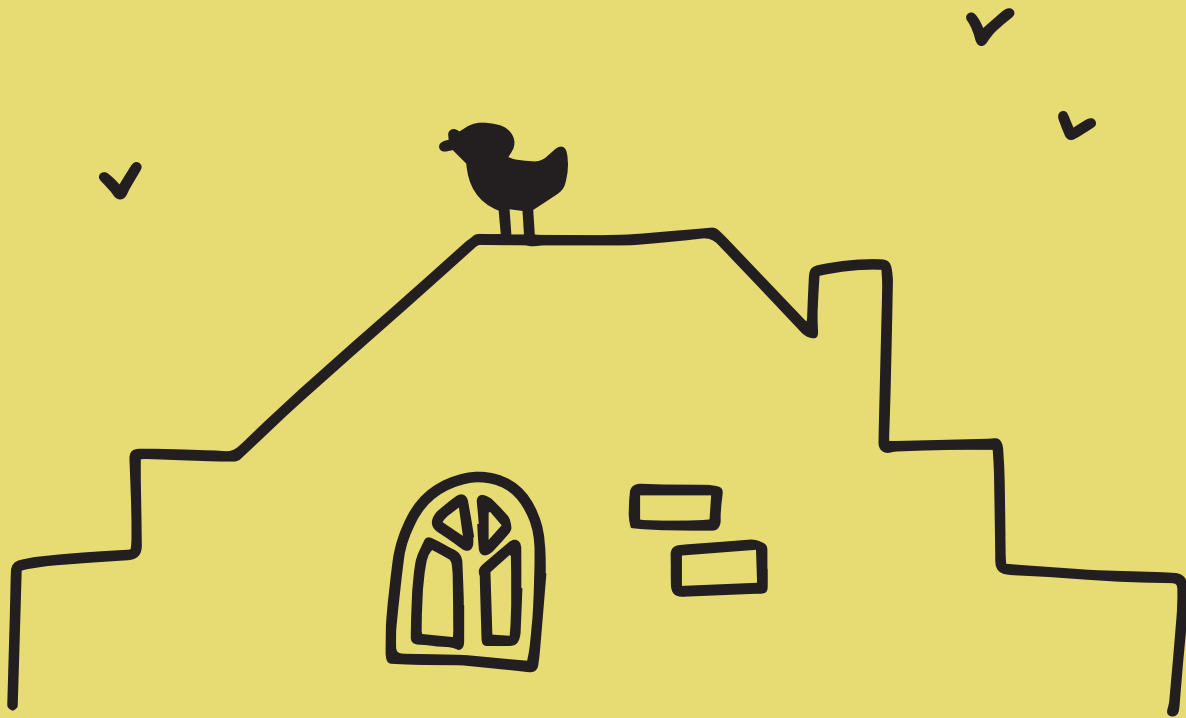
In the places where there isn't this might help you to think about the building when it is busy with lots of people.

Take a picture of the places where it is hard for you to move round each other.

Finding ways round with A to B

Your leader will choose a point A and a point B, to get from point A to point B, you must at some point go via the garden, can you now draw a map of how you got there? Or can you take a picture of your route or tell us about it?

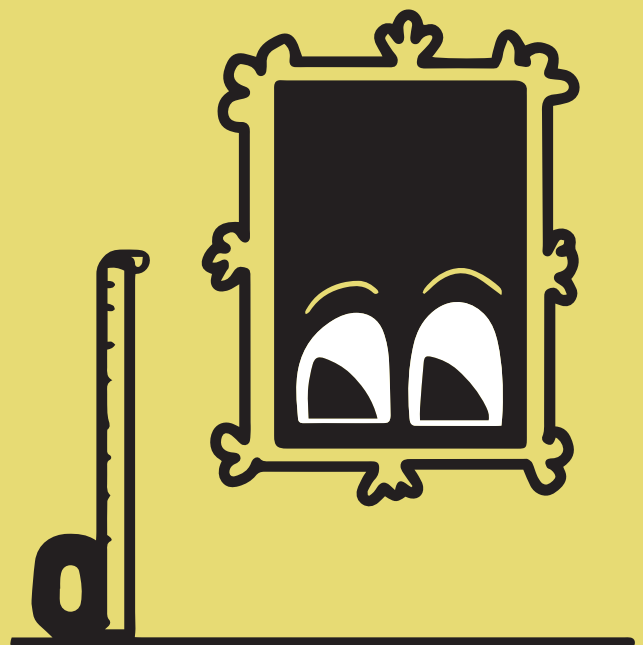




Where is the highest point of the building?
Can you draw a picture and take a photograph?

With a tape measure,
tell me how high the
posters or pictures are
in the room you are in.

Write down a measurement,
can you see them ok?



Make a **voice note** if you want to say anything else.

Finally tell us how the building made you feel today, a **voice recording**, a **written note** or a **picture**.

Thank you for everything that you have found out I hope it has made you think more about the design of spaces too.

