During the 15th century two powerful families fought many battles to try and win the crown of England. These two families, or ‘houses’ were the House of York and the House of Lancaster. Each family had a rose as its symbol: a white rose for the House of York, a red rose for the House of Lancaster.

The civil war between these two houses was a bloody time in English history and is known as ‘The War of the Roses’.

In the 15th century the King was the most powerful person in the land and passing the crown down to the next generation of the family was tremendously important. The King gave his children titles and land as gifts to show their royalty in much the same way as the present Queen, Elizabeth gave the title of the Duke of Cambridge to Prince William when he got married to Kate Middleton.

Keeping the royal blood line pure is how royal houses hand power down from one generation.

Nowadays the royals know their place in line for the throne.

Who is..............?

1\textsuperscript{st} in line

Prince William

Prince Charles

Prince Harry

2\textsuperscript{nd} in line

3\textsuperscript{rd} in line

2011
In the 15th century the sons of Kings and Dukes did not wait patiently for the person in front of them to die – their way of getting power was to challenge and fight each other.

Below are the battles fought in The War of the Roses

Put the battles on the timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Battle</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1450</td>
<td>St Albans 1455</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1455</td>
<td>Edgecote Moor 1469</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1460</td>
<td>Wakefield 1460</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1461</td>
<td>St Albans II 1461</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1461</td>
<td>Mortimer’s Cross 1461</td>
<td>Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1461</td>
<td>Towton 1461 *</td>
<td>Tudor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1464</td>
<td>Ludford Bridge 1459</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1464</td>
<td>Losecote Field 1470</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1464</td>
<td>Hexham 1464</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1464</td>
<td>Hedgeley Moor 1464</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1469</td>
<td>Edgecote Moor 1469</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1470</td>
<td>Blore Heath 1459</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1470</td>
<td>Losecote Field 1470</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1471</td>
<td>Tewkesbury 1471</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1471</td>
<td>Hedgeley Moor 1464</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1474</td>
<td>Blore Heath 1459</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475</td>
<td>Losecote Field 1470</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475</td>
<td>Hexham 1464</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475</td>
<td>Bredenham 1475</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1478</td>
<td>Barnet 1471</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*the bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil. Between 20 and 30,000 men were killed in one day.
The House of Lancaster began in 1399 after Henry IV took the throne from the unpopular Richard II.

Henry IV inherited the duchy of Lancaster from his father John of Gaunt who had acquired it from his marriage to Blanche of Lancaster.

The crown passed to his son Henry V who was famous for defeating the French at Agincourt. He married the King of France’s daughter, Catherine of Valois. He was going to be the king of England AND France.

Henry V died suddenly so the crown passed to Henry VI.

Henry VI was only a baby so the crown was controlled by regents. He was not strong even when he grew to adulthood. He suffered from insanity from time to time. His wife, Catherine of Anjou, took over running the country. Catherine upset the House of York by excluding Richard of York from the ruling council.

Richard of York became powerful enough to rule in 1450. Henry VI went to hide in France. The country was now in a state of civil war.

Edward IV, Richard’s son succeeds to the throne after the Battle of Towton in 1461.

Nine years later in 1470, Henry VI returns from France and is king but only for 1 year.

The House of York, lead by Edward IV is the ruling family for the next 14 years.

Edward IV died in 1483 and his 12 year-old son prince Edward V was going to be crowned as king on 22nd June. Edward’s uncle, Richard III was going to guide him until he became an adult.

But Edward V (and his brother Richard) was declared to be illegitimate – this meant he could not inherit the throne.
• Edward V and his younger brother Richard were locked in the Tower of London and Richard III was crowned king on 6th July. The two young princes were never seen again. Many people believe that Richard III murdered the princes in the tower.
• Richard III is deeply unpopular and rebellions start against him. A cousin of the Lancastrians, Henry Tudor joins the fight for the throne.
• Henry Tudor’s mother is related to John O’Gaunt so he is connected to the royal blood line.
• Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and becomes Henry VII.
• Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York so the two families become united. The War of the Roses is finally at an end.
• The white rose of York and the red rose of Lancaster are joined together to make the Tudor rose.
The Tudor Family Tree

Edward III

Edward
The Black Prince
I
Richard II

Lionel
(Duke of Clarence)
I
Richard
Duke of York
I
Edward IV
(Edward V and his brother Richard Duke of York disappeared whilst in the Tower of London)

Succeeded by their uncle who became Richard III

William
(No Issue)

Edmund
(Duke of York)

John of Gaunt
(Duke of Lancaster)
I
Henry IV
Bolingbroke
I
Henry V
Married Catherine of Valois
I
Henry VI
Married Catherine of Anjou

The House of York

The House of Lancaster

The House of Tudor

Catherine of Valois
( widow of Henry VI)
matried
Owen Tudor
I
Edmund Tudor
I
Henry Tudor
became
King Henry VII
m. Elizabeth of York
I
Henry VIII
I
Edward VI
I
Mary I
I
Elizabeth I
Put the events in order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The young princes are murdered in the tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanche of Lancaster marries John of Gaunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry VI hides in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Tudor wins the Battle of Bosworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry V dies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Yorkists are in power for more than 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine of Anjou upsets the House of York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Battle of Towton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The War of the Roses and Ordsall Hall

Imagine you are part of the Radclyffe family.

Write a letter to a friend in the year 1470 about what is happening in the country and how your family feels about it.

(Think about: how many people may have died in the wars; which side do you support; what might happen if the other side wins; how strong is Henry VI as a king)
Role play: Tricky Dicky

You work for a national newspaper. Interview Richard III about the events leading up to the young princes in the tower. What explanation can you discover for their disappearance?

War of the Roses - Wordsearch

J G N I K W V W N Q M K H B R D
S U V R D U H D A T V L Y O D T
D J E C D V S I X R A P S B I C
P R I N C E S C T N S E L T X O
E K P G M G R S C E S E X U O L
D Z S O K N F A D Z E C U D Z W
W I S M W H S E C H L Q S O H L
A W U S M T K U H E I D C R Y Z
R N Z K E Q X C P X Z D R I R Q
D I W R K P G D C B A A R U N G
R A P T P O K R D F B J E A E O
P E C N A R F A O X E B D W H R
A J F G D E R H U T T A R D K I
G M F N E U Q C P A H D U D V K
W K I N S A N I T Y P N M M A W
W M C T E N O R H T K R O Y D X

LANCASTER ELIZABETH
INSANITY RICHARD
PRINCES THRONE
EDWARD MURDER
FRANCE TUDOR
ROSES WHITE
HENRY KING
WARS YORK
RED