

History Curriculum

History is a key aspect of the primary curriculum and makes a distinctive and valuable contribution to a child's education. It provides children with the essential skills to understand, explain, and develop an awareness and sense of curiosity about the world we live in today and develop a sense of identity. Our aim is to enthuse and inspire further their historical understanding and develop their knowledge of the past and how this has impacted on the world we live in today.

History is an important part of a child's curriculum. It develops their understanding of the world today and how events and people in the past have influenced our lives. Learning about the past and the methods used to study sources and draw conclusions helps children understand and contribute to the wider world. It inspires and enthuses them to question and become curious about the past and their own local history allowing history to become part of their life both in and out of school. A high quality history curriculum will develop a range of skills from thinking critically, analysing sources, understanding the passing of time, chronological ordering, enquiry skills and evaluating. In history children need to be able to find evidence, weigh it up and reach conclusions. To do this they need to be able to begin to research, sift through evidence and begin to argue for their point of view skills which are also important throughout school. As a result, children will be able to begin to look critically and inquisitively at the world around them and begin to question the past and present. The skills required to be an historian not only lead to children becoming critical, independent thinkers but also contribute to the development of a range of skills necessary for life.

Implementation

We offer a broad and balanced history curriculum which aims to instil children with a sense of curiosity and passion for learning. Our children learn a wide range of skills which enable them to think as historians. We recognise the importance of stories in history teaching and we regard this as an important way of developing an interest in the past. Through the curriculum provided children develop an awareness of themselves and their peers within the context of local, national and international events. History creates a sense of identity, recognising the changes that have taken place which have led us to the world as we know it today.

History- Early Years

In Early Years learning is based around children exploring their own immediate history and learning about their own families. Throughout EYFS children gain an awareness of historical concepts, vocabulary and key terms this is encouraged through the planning of purposeful play and through a mix of adult led and child initiated activities. Through these activities children learn the early steps for making comparisons and thinking critically by answering how and why questions. Children are taught how to observe as adults model and narrate what they can see so the children can develop their understanding of what they are looking at and for. Children will build their basic historical knowledge, including a range of appropriate historical vocabulary relating to the passing of time and old and new which they will then be able to build upon throughout their school life.

History-KS1

In KS1 children build on observational, critical thinking, questioning and chronology skills taught in Early Years and develop a wider range of skills which are essential to develop their historical knowledge throughout school life. During history lessons children have access to a wide range of sources and texts to enable them to build good subject knowledge alongside their skills of working like a historian. They learn how to listen and respond to stories and use sources to help them build on their enquiry skills and answer questions. Children find out about and research significant figures and events from the recent and more distant past and begin to understand the impact they have had on the world we live in today. They then make comparisons between the ways of life in different periods and understand that. Children build on their vocabulary learnt in early years and develop a further awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. Their developing subject knowledge enables them to enquire, ask questions and make comparisons and begin to explain how and why significant figures and events have contributed to their own life.

Children will build their knowledge of the key areas of the KS1 history curriculum in discrete history lessons and where appropriate cross-curricular lessons. Throughout lessons there is an emphasis on the use of high quality resources and texts to allow children to understand the concepts and facts being taught. Through continuous provision children will engage with topics and concepts covered in lessons and will consolidate and further their understanding of the key learning in history.

To promote an enthusiasm for history throughout school children wherever possible attend school trips based on topics. This allows the children real life experiences of understanding what life was like in the past and they then build on these experiences in the classroom.

How do we support children with SEND?

History forms a fundamental element of a child's entitlement to learning and at our school we ensure that all children can engage with historical learning and develop as young historians. Children enjoy history and have opportunities to progress well, lessons are practical and children access trips and history based days in school to support and inspire their learning. We ensure that all children can access the curriculum by differentiating lessons. We also break learning down into small steps, pre-teach vocabulary and new concepts and use technology to support learning. Lessons are practical and well resourced to support children's individual needs.

What can parents/carers do to promote History?

- ✓ Encourage children by sharing your own history with your child, particularly your own memories of people and place of your childhood. Encourage other relatives/friends to talk with your child about history.
- ✓ Make the most of everyday opportunities to talk about local history when visiting places discuss what it was like in the past.
- ✓ Encourage and support children to ask historical questions and to become inquisitive about the world around them.
- ✓ Encourage children to engage in conversations about the topics they are learning and historical figures and places they have learnt about.
- ✓ Encourage to gain an understanding of chronological order this could be linked to looking at your own family history.
- ✓ Encourage children to research historical events and figures that they show an interest in from different time periods.