History

'We are not makers of History. We are made by History' Martin Luther King Jnr



What do we love about our subject?

History is an exciting subject because it allows us to have a better understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. By studying History, children gain a better understanding of the world they live in and how the past has affected our present.

If children were denied the opportunity to study History, the impact would be profound. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

What are some of the big ideas in our subject?

The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections.
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed

How do we enrich our subject?

In KS1 the children have a visit from the fire brigade which gives them the prior knowledge for when they learn about The Great Fire of London in Year 2. They then build paper houses and the teacher takes them outside to show them how the fire spread.

In KS2, the children have been lucky enough to visit Bosworth Battle Fields. We have also had companies into school to immerse the children into their topics such as learning about the impact of rationing during WWII.

How do we want pupils to talk about our subject?

We want pupils to talk enthusiastically, excitedly and passionately about History and to recognise the importance the past has played on their present lives.

We want the children to have a secure understanding of chronological events and talk about the key features and people.

To be able to identify similarities and differences through time.

To make connections between time periods and concepts. We want their historical understanding to be depend.

How is our subject taught and organised so learning is retained in the long-term memory?

Foundation Stage history is part of the national curriculum's learning objectives for developing children's understanding of the world, so they will learn through experiences that introduce the concept of time and change. Some questions they look at are: How have I changed since I was baby? Why do we wear different clothes at different times of the year? What are our favourite celebrations each year? What did we do last term? They will also explore patterns and routines and are given opportunities to take part in events to celebrate time.

In Key Stage 1 and 2, the subject is structured coherently so that over time, key concepts are revisited and built up on to create a deeper level of understanding. These links are created both within History (as a subject) and across other subjects in order to fully support children's developing understanding and to ensure that when they approach new learning, they have prior knowledge of some of the key concepts and ideas. For example, in Year 1, the children learn about London in Geography which enables them to have a good level of understanding of the city now before then studying The Great Fire of London in Year 2 which also develops their understanding of everyday materials which is studied in Science.

What do we want pupils to leave Fairfield being able to do?

We want children to leave Fairfield with a secure understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past and enable them to articulately discuss key concepts such as continuity and change and causes and consequence. The critical evaluation of evidence is another key skill that can be enhanced by the teaching of History which has the potential to have a great impact on children's futures.

By working to towards this, we hope that children take their love of History with them as the move on to their next school and in to later life.