



Westfield Infant School Spotlight on History



What is History and how is it taught?

History is a foundation subject that teaches pupil's about historical events throughout different periods of time. At Westfield Infant School, we have a knowledge-based curriculum which strongly emphasises pupil's retainment and use of key vocabulary.

It is taught in a fun and engaging way to allow pupils to recall significant events that they may not have known about before. This includes British kings and queens, Parliament and Prime Ministers, the Roman Empire and significant people that have made an impact in History including people who are still alive today. It also enables pupils to understand how we find out about the past and what archaeologists, palaeontologists and historians use in their discoveries. Pupils are taught History in different ways including drama, art and writing activities to support all learners. In KS1, History is taught every other half term alongside Geography. In EYFS, History is not taught discretely but within topic-based learning where pupil's begin to develop their understanding and begin to understand that History is from the past.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

History is taught using the Primary Knowledge Curriculum which is progressive from EYFS to KS2. Pupils have an excellent start to their primary curriculum with the foundations being laid in EYFS and KS1 reading to begin learning History chronologically as they move into KS2. Within starters of lessons or dove tailed into a lesson, pupils will recap areas of History that they may have been taught before; especially as they move up the key stages.

Pupils are supported with scaffolding and deepening throughout a lesson. This could be during teaching, class discussions or completing the task. They are asked tailored questions to ensure understanding which will include retrieval questions about something just taught.

During our end of week 'Weekly Reviews' teachers ask pupil's questions about their learning from different parts of the year. Teachers strategically choose areas of the subject that pupil's may have found challenging in the lesson so can therefore recap to ensure learners meet the learning objective. When pupils have completed the end of unit quiz teachers assess and again use those questions to aid their 'Exit Tickets' and questions in weekly reviews.

In History lessons pupils are not grouped but placed in mixed ability tables to help each other. Explicit vocabulary is taught at the beginning of a lesson and pupil's understanding is checked before proceeding onto the lesson. During the teaching of the lesson the key vocabulary is written in blue writing to emphasise the importance of the word in the lesson. Writing the words in a different colour will not only distinguish them from the rest of the words on the screen but will also 'stick' in a child's mind for the future.

How do we assess the pupil's knowledge and understanding in this subject?

At the beginning of each History lesson, the start recaps the previous lesson's learning. Pupils talk to a partner to discuss their thoughts on the previous learning before we move onto the new lesson.

In History lessons pupils are assessed at the end of each unit with a multiple-choice quiz that is created by the PKC scheme. This quiz aids teacher judgement when completing assessment grids.

Teachers also conduct formative assessments throughout the lesson to help with supporting pupil's with completing their main activity. Questioning is added to the screens to ensure all teachers are consistent with their questioning. Any misconceptions can be addressed and recapped in Weekly Reviews/exit tickets. These sessions help to see if pupils have retained the knowledge taught to them in previous lessons.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

Parents and Carers are currently sent knowledge organisers at the beginning of each unit to support their child with learning at home. Parents/Carers can be signposted to historical events in the local area, such as the local Hinckley Museum on Lower Bond Street, visiting Bosworth Battlefield or the Richard III Museum in Leicester. There are also local events in the town centre around the time of the anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth.

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

During our Wednesday assemblies in KS1, pupil's are taught about historical events. This has included The Gunpowder Plot, Black History Month and Remembrance. There are also a large variety of books in the Library that pupil's can take out during their library sessions.