

Our History Curriculum

A guide for parents

Welcome to our history curriculum! We're excited to share how we are transforming your child from a learner of facts into a genuine Historical Detective.

Our curriculum is designed to make history feel personal, relevant, and engaging. We don't just teach dates; we teach critical thinking.

The journey is carefully structured: we start right here in our local community, using our own unique heritage as a "living classroom," and gradually expand their world view to cover the sweep of British and global history. By the time they leave us, your child will not only know the stories of the past but will also have the advanced skills to question, analyse, and interpret historical evidence—essential tools for navigating the modern world.

Our curriculum starts with your child's own story and expands outward, training them to be a historical detective who asks "Why?" and uncovers the stories that built our world.

Starting with 'Me' and My Community (Early Years & KS1)




We begin by making history personal—connecting the past directly to your child's life, family, and local area.

- Nursery & Reception: 🕒 The 'My Life' Timeline
 - Growing Up: Your child learns about their own journey and compares how their life differs from when their parents and grandparents were young.
 - Local Clues: We use places like Holkham Hall as a starting point to see real, tangible change right here in our community.
- Year 1: 👑 Heroes and High-Fliers
 - Living Memory: We compare childhoods across generations, focusing on how things like toys and technology have changed within living memory.
 - Pioneers: We look at significant individuals, from British Royalty to the modern-day heroes who ventured into space.
- Year 2: 🔥 Disaster and Devotion
 - Big Events: We investigate famous events like The Great Fire of London (1666), seeing how a single disaster can completely reshape a city.
 - Local Legends: We celebrate the courage of local heroes like the lifeboatman Henry Blogg, connecting history directly to the coast and community spirit.

The Epic Sagas of Britain and the World (Key Stage 2)

As they progress, the focus shifts to the dramatic, continuous narrative of British history and the incredible achievements of ancient global civilizations.

- Year 3: 🛡️ Invaders and Builders

- o Ancient Britain: We start with the dramatic leap from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.
 - o The Romans: They study the massive, lasting legacy of the Roman Empire—roads, towns, and laws that still shape modern Britain.
 - o Local Power: We link national events to local sites related to the powerful Tudors.
 - Year 4:  Gods, Gold, and Global Influence
 - o Foundations of Freedom: We dive into Ancient Greece, exploring the roots of democracy and the original Olympic Games.
 - o Clash of Cultures: We study the turbulent mix of the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings who fought and settled to establish the map of England.
 - o Naval Might: A deep dive into local naval hero Horatio Nelson.
 - Year 5:  Pharaohs and Front Lines
 - o Ancient Wonders: We explore the mysteries and engineering genius of Ancient Egypt (pyramids, mummification, the Nile).
 - o Bringing War Home: We study the emotional stories of World War II Evacuees right here in Wells-next-the-Sea, personalizing global conflict.
 - o Interconnectedness: How local change, like the arrival of the railway, connected our town to the wider Industrial Revolution.
 - Year 6:  Rebellion and Modern Identity
 - o Global Society: We explore the sophisticated culture of the Mayans (writing, maths, astronomy).
 - o The New Normal: We study the vital contributions of the Windrush Generation, helping them understand modern, diverse British identity.
 - o Local Justice: We look at local history of protest and standing up for rights by studying Kett's Rebellion (1549).
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The Historian's Toolkit: Concepts They Master

These aren't facts; they are the high-level thinking skills your child develops to analyse and critique the world around them.

Thinking Like a Detective: The Abstract Ideas

- Chronology (The Flow): They don't just know dates; they can confidently sequence events and understand the *stream* of history.
- Cause & Consequence (The Why and What): They learn to look beyond simple events, asking: "What were the *causes* of this?" and "What were the long-term *consequences*?"
- Change & Continuity (The Balance): They can identify what stayed the same (continuity) and what was dramatically transformed (change) over time.

- Perspective & Interpretation (The Point of View): They realize history is often told by the powerful, and they learn to ask: "Whose story is missing?" and look for multiple viewpoints.
- Significance & Legacy (Why It Matters): They learn to evaluate which events and people had the biggest, most lasting impact on the world we live in today.

Acting Like a Historian: The Practical Skills

- Source Analysis: Your child learns to treat historical evidence—whether it's an old letter or a photo—like a detective. They ask: Who created this? Can I trust it?
- Enquiry & Questioning: We teach them to move beyond simple facts to formulate complex, challenging questions about the past and design investigations to answer them.
- Historical Vocabulary: They build a robust, precise vocabulary (like *empire*, *monarchy*, *civilisation*, and *settlement*) to articulate their findings with authority.

How you can help your child at home:

Simple Everyday Ways to Support History

1. Talk About the Past

- Share stories from your own childhood or family history.
- Look at old family photos and talk about what life was like then — clothes, toys, transport, school.
- Compare how things have changed over time (phones, cars, homes, TV, holidays).

2. Read Historical Stories Together

- Choose bedtime stories set in different time periods (e.g., Egyptians, Vikings, WW2).
- Visit the local library and look for history books linked to their school topics.
- Encourage children to ask: *How do we know this? Did this really happen?*

3. Encourage Historical Thinking Skills

- When watching films or reading books set in the past, ask:
What's different to today? Why? What might stay the same?
- Play “spot the anachronism” (something out of place in a historical setting!).

Local History Adventures

- Go on a local history walk — look for old buildings, monuments, street names and talk about their stories.
- Visit local sites such as churches, museums, historical buildings or memorials.
- Compare old and new maps or photos of your town to spot changes.

Encourage Curiosity About the Wider World

- Talk about traditions, celebrations, clothing and food from different cultures and how they started.
- Compare daily life in different time periods or countries.
- Encourage empathy: *What would it feel like to live then? What challenges did people face?*