

HISTORY AT PALACE WOOD PRIMARY

VISION

Our vision is for History at Palace Wood to ignite a lifelong curiosity about the past! Our goal is to support children to understand how history has shaped the world they live in today. We aim to create thoughtful, informed learners who feel inspired to ask questions, challenge ideas and make connections across time and cultures. Our vision is to foster an environment where children develop a curious, creative and informed understanding of history – exploring the past as one interconnected story, rather than individual chapters.

HOW IT IS TAUGHT

Here history is brought to life through a rich and varied approach that makes learning meaningful, engaging, and memorable. We provide pupils with a wide range of opportunities to explore the past in a hands-on and immersive way. Role play, debate tasks, and investigative activities are just some of the ways we allow children to step into the shoes of historical figures, examine different viewpoints, and develop a deeper understanding of key events and their impact. Lessons are designed to encourage active enquiry, where pupils are challenged to ask questions, examine evidence, and draw their own conclusions. We place a strong emphasis on exploring ideas in a tangible, 'real' way – whether through handling prop artefacts, re-enacting historical scenarios and events, or visiting relevant sites. Importantly, our teaching ensures pupils understand history as a continuous timeline, rather than isolated events. Ultimately, strengthening their ability to understand cause and consequence, change over a period of time, and the links between different time periods.

MAIN AREAS

At Palace Wood our history curriculum is built on the framework of the National Curriculum, ensuring full coverage of the required knowledge and skills while also reflecting the unique interests and needs of our school community. We have carefully curated a broad and balanced sequence of topics that progressively build pupils' understanding of key historic concepts and events.

Through a wide-ranging study of British, local and world history, children explore significant periods such as the Stone Age to Iron Age, Roman Britain, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. As well as, key turning points such as the Norman Conquest and World War II. They also study ancient civilisations including Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece, as well as non-European societies. This offers our students a global perspective!

The main areas of historical learning – chronological understanding, knowledge of events, people and changes, interpretation of the past, historical enquiry and the use of historical vocabulary - are thoughtfully incorporated into each unit, ensuring depth as well as breath.

Our curriculum promotes a deep sense of historical narrative, enabling pupils to understand how different time periods connect and influence each other over time. Children at Palace Wood thrive when they make the links to their world around them, and that of the past. By revisiting and comparing themes such as leadership, innovation, conflict, and society across different eras, our children develop a richer and more coherent understanding of history. Each topic is designed not only to meet the expectations of the National Curriculum, but also to inspire curiosity and equip students with the tools to think creatively and critically in reference to the past, and its impact on the present.

OUR AIMS

Our aim in History is to foster joyful and innovative learners who flourish through a deep and meaningful understanding of the past. We strive to spark curiosity and excitement by delivering engaging, hands-on experiences that bring history to life. Additionally, we aim to nurture an inquisitive and explorative environment where children bring their own perspectives into the topics they are learning. We aim to encourage our children to ask questions, explore different perspectives and develop their own interpretations. Our further aim is to empower pupils to think independently, develop their voice and connect history to the world around them.

SUPPORT FOR ALL

We are committed to ensuring that all children can access and enjoy history, regardless of their individual needs or learning styles. Our history lessons are designed to include a variety of approaches including visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and collaborative. This allows every child to have the opportunity to thrive and engage with the learning! Whether through practical activities, drama-based performances, visuals and more, we provide multiple sources of support for the learning. Targeted support, scaffolding, and adaptive teaching strategies help all pupils succeed in History and make meaningful connections. This inclusive approach ensures every child at Palace Wood can prosper and develop a love for History!

SKILLS AND CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

At Palace Wood, our history curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity and deepen understanding of the past through a range of key skills. Pupils learn to construct the past by exploring a variety of sources, enabling them to piece together historical narratives with accuracy and context. Through developing chronological understanding, our children gain a sense of time sequence, helping them to place events and developments within a coherent historical framework. Making connections between different periods, societies and themes supports broader learning and encourages pupils to see patterns and influences across time. Historical enquiry is at the heart of our approach, fostering investigative skills as children ask questions, interpret evidence, and draw informed conclusions. We place strong emphasis on critical thinking, encouraging pupils to evaluate the reliability of sources and consider multiple perspectives. In addition, careful development of historical vocabulary empowers students to express their understanding with clarity and confidence, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

History at Palace Wood is enriched through strong cross-curricular links that deepen understanding and broaden learning across subjects. Geography plays a key role, supporting historical study by helping students explore where events take place, how environments influence human activity, and how maps and locations have changed over time. This cross curricular link greatly strengthens the understanding for children's learning of history, as it gives them a physical place as a reference point, instead of solely having a time that has passed! Links with maths and English are also carefully developed, particularly through opportunities for extended writing, story telling and the use of debate discussions. Art, drama and DT are also intentionally integrated, enabling the children to express their understanding creatively. These cross-curricular links make our history learning relevant and engaging for all.