



INTENT

The history curriculum at Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School is designed to develop an interest, curiosity and solid understanding of our past. Through our engaging and challenging curriculum, children will also realise the importance of learning from our past and growing as a civilisation.

As well as ensuring our topics are in line with the National Curriculum, we also take time to look at our local history and how Furness Vale has developed over time, weaving this particular line of enquiry throughout our existing topics.

We endeavour to promote a genuine interest and fascination with our history topics, and we achieve this through a combination of written work, art, drama and problem-solving/team-building exercises which enhance the children’s learning. While gaining historical knowledge, children will simultaneously be developing the RESPECT qualities we promote at Furness Vale (Resilience, Empathy, Self-awareness, Passion, Excellence, Communication and Teamwork). We ensure all our learners have an open and respectful view of our historical curriculum, allowing us to promote British Values while teaching our children about a range of individuals from various cultures and eras. We believe this will ensure our children grow to be understanding, considerate and compassionate members of society, fulfilling our school motto of ‘Happy hearts, enquiring minds and positive futures’.

IMPLEMENTATION

EYFS

In Nursery and Reception, children develop an understanding of time on a smaller scale, focussing on different events that occur throughout the year. Children learn about the history and the importance of annual events including Harvest, Black History Month, Bonfire Night, Christmas and other religious festivals.

KS1

As children progress into Key Stage One, we begin to refer to other eras in history, focussing on various timelines outside of present day. We believe it is important that the children gain a broad sense of chronology before we focus on one era in particular. We hope this will allow the children to gain some understanding of how the world has changed over the course of history.

One area we focus on is ‘The Great Fire of London’, where children are taught about the Stuart period of life and how it differs to today. We also pay close attention to Samuel Pepys, reading his diary and beginning a line of enquiry into this significant event from our history. Children will also learn about the history of the fire service and create their own artwork to replicate the burning buildings during the Great Fire of London.

We also take a look at the late Queen Elizabeth II, her reign and make comparisons and contrasts to previous monarchs. We use first-hand accounts and various sources to draw our own conclusions about Queen Elizabeth II’s reign. The children also learn about the role of the Queen and the Commonwealth as well as various celebrations surrounding her, such as the jubilees.

When looking at modern history, the children learn about toys of the past, comparing modern day toys to those from the Victorian era. The children learn about what life was like for Victorian children and how schools differ from today. Children are also taught about various jobs that some young children would have had in those times and how the rights of children have improved greatly into the modern era.

As well as learning about our local history and the history of Britain, our children also look at the history of individuals from other continents: Pocahontas is studied, with the children learning about the customs, beliefs and traditions of Native American tribes including the Powhatan Tribe. We compare and contrast to various tribes living around the world and see how this compares to British history around the same time period.

LOWER KS2

In Lower Key Stage Two, the children cover a wide range of historical topics, paying more attention to the chronology of each era, identifying transitions from era to era as well as any overlaps. We also look at what our local history was like during each era in order to visualise what life was like where we live.

We look at how Britain has developed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children will learn about how our civilization started to develop tools and clothes, learn the techniques of hunter gatherers and study various art from including cave paintings and the famous art discovered in Cueva de las Manos.

We also look at the Ancient Egyptians and their beliefs and customs. We will channel archaeologists by analysing and identifying various relics in order to determine their use and purpose and we will attempt to decode ancient hieroglyphs.

The Vikings is also studied in LKS2, learning about where the Vikings originated as well as their journey overseas to Britain. We also identify various Norse Gods and Goddesses. We take a look at identifying various relics and artefacts and try to determine their purpose. We also study one of the oldest epic poems in England – Beowulf. We make use of drama to portray how Anglo-Saxon children would have reacted to the arrival of the Vikings, focussing on a number of aspects and possible outcomes through multiple lines of enquiry.

UPPER KS2

In KS2, children cover Ancient Rome, learning about the lifestyle of the Romans and their beliefs. We follow the rise of the Roman empire and study the various leaders. Finally, we look at Roman soldiers and the battle strategies which led them to be so successful.

One topic also focusses on ‘Pioneering Women’, which is a collaboration of women across many eras. We use this module to allow the children to focus on the chronology of different eras, identifying key differences and similarities within different time periods across the world. We study a range of women up until present day, allowing us to discuss how women’s rights has changed over time and question whether more can be done to ensure equality for all.

Children also learn about World War II in Years 5 and 6. In order to better understand events and relations within Europe, we look at World War I and the links to World War II. Children focus on where the war originated, discovering the emergence of Nazi Germany, the rise of Adolf Hitler and how this affected Europe. Children also make various artworks of soldiers

outfits and propaganda used by Britain in WWII. Finally, we look at how World War II has impacted our lives today.

Again, throughout our historical topics, we look at what life in Furness Vale was like during each time period, visiting any relevant monuments there may be, such as war memorials.