



Curriculum Intent for History

- a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils;
- a curriculum that plans to develop children’s chronological understanding across topics;
- a curriculum that is successfully adapted, designed and developed for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities;
- a curriculum that is broad and balanced for all pupils.

What does History look like at West Ashtead?

In Early Years our history is child led. Within the topics that they cover and through stories, the children have space to question and lead enquiries to help their understanding of the world around them.

In KS1, the focus is on key events such as the Great Fire of London and significant figures such as Jane Goodall and Amy Johnson, as well as exploring history within living memory. The children explore how national life is represented, changed and commemorated.

During Year 3, children have the opportunity to explore the local history of Ashtead and the surrounding areas by conducting interviews, investigating censuses and studying maps. Children are encouraged to incorporate their previous learning and to make comparisons with what life was like in Britain at the time.

Throughout KS2 children study the achievements of early civilisations, like the Romans, Ancient Greeks, Vikings and Mayans and the impact and legacy those civilisations had on our world. In Lower KS2, children learn about early British history chronologically, from the Stone Age to the Vikings. In Upper KS2, children then learn about key periods of British history after 1066, such as the Victorian era and the Second World War.

Running throughout these topics is the opportunity for children to understand where any new learning sits chronologically to their previous learning or knowledge of events.

Why is History important?

History is important to children at West Ashtead to help them understand the world today. In all of their learning they are asked to make comparisons to life in Britain, and to consider what evidence we see of that period now. It aids children in their ability to make judgements, scrutinise evidence and be able to interpret the meaning. It is also key that children have an understanding of history within living memory.

At West Ashtead, we aim to teach the children the skills of historical enquiry and chronology in order to understand what has happened in the past and its effects on how we live today.

What do children say about History?

“Making houses and then burning them helped me to understand why the Great Fire of London happened.”

“History is not just sitting at a desk, we are able to explore objects and the lives of people in the past.”

“We get to use clues to find out new things. Like finding the Roman Soldier.”

How do we enrich our children’s understanding of History?

At West Ashtead we endeavour to provide plenty of opportunities for enrichment related to History. The children investigate artefacts as well as pictorial and written evidence. We use history workshops which come in and allow children to experience history hands on. Also we have a variety of trips, each year group has an opportunity to visit historic sights, some within the local area and others further afield, for example:

- KS1: Arundel Castle / The Beach / Great Fire of London Workshop
 - Y3 Local points of interest
- Yr 4: Maiden Castle / Roman remains / Butser Ancient Farm
 - Y5: Ancient Greece workshop
- Yr 6: WW2 workshop “The Forties”, Kenilworth Castle / Blists Hill Victorian Town