

History at Western EYFS

Children learn the chronology of their own lives, using simple timelines and beginning to understand the meanings of the terms past, present and future. Recent events, famous people from the past and events in stories are vehicles for cementing this early understanding.



KS1

Year 1 – building on their EYFS knowledge and understanding, children learn about the toys their parents and grandparents played with, comparing and explaining the differences. They look at how buildings have changed over time in terms of materials used. They build on their understanding of timelines, focusing on significant historical events and figures such as Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot and Neil Armstrong.

Year 2 – building on their understanding of timelines, children will understand specific historical terms such as weeks, years and decades, linking to events and time periods studied. Comparing and contrasting the birth periods of themselves and their parents are examples of historical skills which children will practice. As part of 'What was London like in 1666?', children learn about the Great Fire of London, why it occurred and what changes were made to buildings as a result. Important elements of historical understanding include making connections across time (such as Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake) as well as exploring cause and effect in local history studies (e.g. Harrogate spa water).



Y3/4



Building on the skills developed in KS1, children will learn to: ask historically valid questions, begin to make deeper connections between historical events and time periods and place key events on a timeline. They will know about the technological advancements of the Stone Age through to the Iron Age, the impact of the Anglo-Saxons and what life was like in Tudor times. Children will also consider how historical events have shaped aspects our lives today, debating questions such as 'What made Alfred the Great great?' and 'How did Henry VIII change Britain?' They will also learn about the Ancient Egyptians, their beliefs and achievements.

Y5/6

By the end of Y6, children will know where each period of history studied throughout their primary education fits on the timeline. From a local history perspective, children study aspects of World War 1 in relation to the experiences of four former pupils of Western whose names have been adopted for our school house teams; they then share this information with our younger children in assembly. Through their studies of historical periods such as Victorian Britain, The Mayan civilisation and Roman Britain, children will understand that our knowledge of the past is built up from a variety of sources of evidence, that there may be differing versions of events and why this may occur.