



PROUD to be **FOREFIELD:**
Passion, Respect, Opportunity, Unique, Determined



Subject Leader Report: History

History is a valued part of the curriculum at Forefield Junior School as it gives us a sense of identity, set within our social, political, cultural and economic relationships. History fires our children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. It plays an essential part in preparing us for living, and working, in the modern world. History is about real people who lived in the past and real events which happened, set in a context of time. History is concerned with sequence, time and chronology and is the study of evidence and the past. It helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as the identity and the challenges of their time. Such understanding comes from the study of life in the past, of thoughts, beliefs, emotions, actions and artefacts. In history, children find evidence, consider it and reach their own conclusions. To do this, they need to research, sift through evidence and argue their point of view – skills that are essential in adult life.

We have designed our History curriculum to help pupils gain 'hands-on' experiences. Whilst we cannot time travel, we can help pupils understand how it felt to live in the past through: dressing up, handling artefacts and recreating events (such as a Victorian child's experience of school day, exploring the diet of an Ancient Egyptian, etc...). We have a wealth of resources that provide children with opportunities to explore artefacts, such as: displaying items on an 'artefact table' in the classroom or using the archaeological dig resources to role play finding relics from a certain time period. In addition, we work with a variety of external partners: Portals to the Past, Quarry Bank Mill, The World Museum (Liverpool), Grosvenor Museum, etc. to run 'themed' days throughout the year.

History Curriculum

	Spring Term	Summer Term	
Year 3	The Stone Age to The Iron Age - <i>How did Britain change during Pre-History?</i>	Ancient Egypt - <i>What were the achievements of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation?</i> Local History Study	
Year 4	Ancient Greece - <i>Do the Ancient Greeks still influence our world?</i>	Local History Study	The Romans - <i>What advances were made in Roman Britain?</i>
Year 5		Anglo-Saxons & Vikings - <i>Did the Anglo-Saxons live in peace with, or in fear of, the Vikings?</i> British History Beyond 1066 - <i>What impact have Monarchs had on our lives?</i> Local History Study	The Mayans - <i>Who were the Maya? When and where did they live?</i>
Year 6		The Victorians - <i>What was life like as a 10-year-old child through history in Britain?</i> Local History Study	

In addition to the curriculum, our Pupil Guarantee aims to ensure that **every** child finds their passion through:

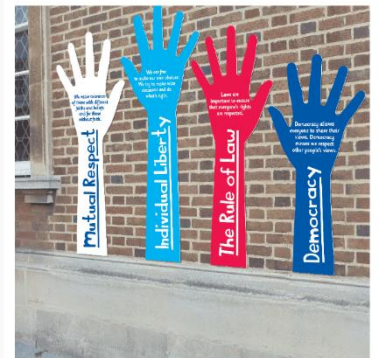
- Regular experiences of the Arts - *on stage, as an audience and as an artist/musician, enjoying a range of styles and influences;*
- Encountering a variety of sporting activities - *competing at individual and team level, and pursuing this interest beyond the school or just for fun;*
- Developing a curiosity about the world around them - *through science, nature or learning about other cultures, and discovering a sense of wonder;*
- Making healthy lifestyle choices - *knowing how to eat well, exercise and promote their own well-being;*
- Extending their learning through visits and visitors - *opening their eyes to the world beyond the school walls, culminating in a residential visit to Ambleside in Year 6.*

From each experience, pupils can gain the strength to know that it is OK to be different and to encourage and appreciate the success of their friends.

Our History curriculum supports our Pupil Guarantee through: regular experiences of the Arts (class assemblies built on Historical themes, celebrating the historical events through drama workshops), encountering a variety of sporting activities (taking part in mini-Olympics during Ancient Greeks Day), developing curiosity about the world around them (through engaging and stimulating lessons based on real life history) and extending learning through visits and visitors.

British Values:

At Forefield Junior School, we understand clearly our responsibility in preparing children for their next stage of education and for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life, laying the foundations so that they can take their place successfully in modern British society. We promote a respect for, and understanding, of different faiths, cultures and lifestyles. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child is central to everything that we do as a school and central to our vision of "Passion, Respect, Opportunity, Unique and Determined". This is evidenced through our teaching and learning, our inclusive environment and through the many opportunities provided for our children to understand Democracy, Law, Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance.



Assessment:

From work completed, class discussions and careful questioning, teachers decide if pupils are working below/at/or above Age Related Expectations. An example of the History Learning Objectives for Y3 is provided below:

A Y3 Historian:

The Stone Age to The Iron Age - How did Britain change during Pre-History?

- LO: Can I order events on a timeline?
- LO: Can I understand the important role archaeologists have in finding out about the past?
- LO: Can I understand what humans needed for survival in the Stone Age?
- LO: Can I describe Stone Age homes and food?
- LO: Can I compare changes in the Stone Age?
- LO: Can I understand the importance of the Bronze Age (Stone Henge)?
- LO: Can I understand the changes in the Iron Age?

Book Scrutiny (January 2024):

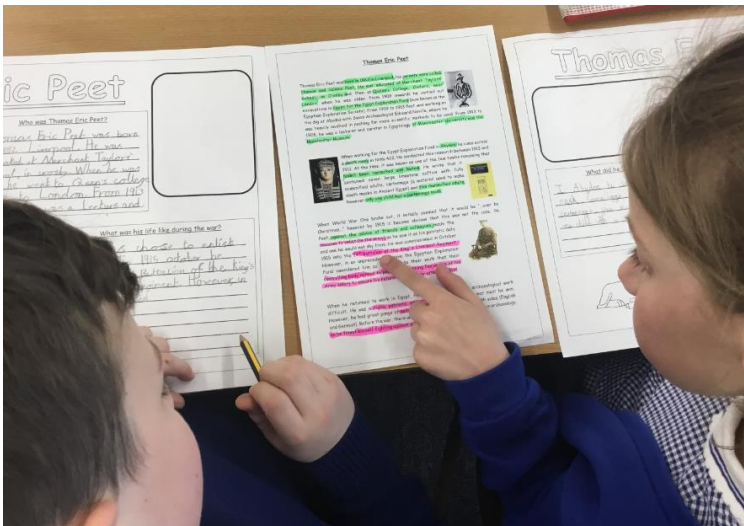
Strengths:

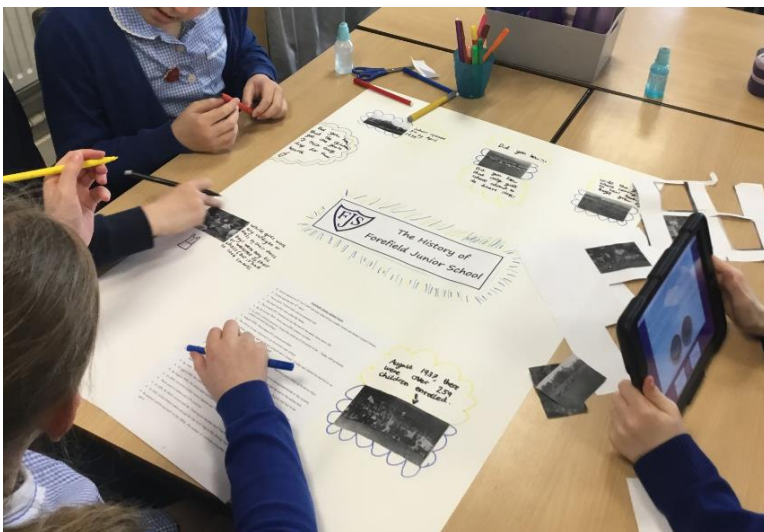
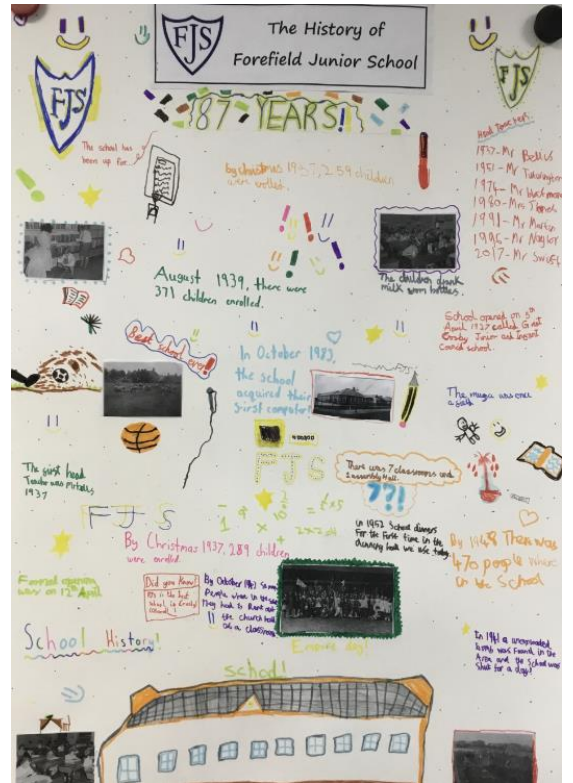
- Books look fantastic – the work is exciting and interesting and it's obvious the children are engaged
- Clear LOs written and the learning outcomes match
- Great amount of written work – with purpose
- Extensive research achieved in lessons with resources provided
- Brilliant use of primary and secondary sources
- Excellent use of PicCollage to show themed days/trips

Even better if:

- Pre-learning tasks in books at the start of topic
- Work about significant people and places is evident in books
- Timelines are in books – drawn, photographs, etc

Photo Evidence of Local History Week:







Enrichment Opportunities:

Year 3:

Ancient Egypt Day *for whole year group* – One Day Creative workshop - children re-enacted ancient Egypt life through drama. In class, children tasted foods which were around in the ancient Egyptian period, pretended to be archaeologists digging for artefacts and looked at hieroglyphics.

Local History Week *for whole year group* – children researched Thomas Eric Peet (an Egyptologist educated at Merchants), studied the ancient footprints on Formby beach and the children took part in a full day of activities planned and delivered by the Mesolithic Outreach team at Lunt Meadows Nature Reserve.

Year 4:

Ancient Roman Trip to Chester *for whole year group* – Set at the Grosvenor Museum. Children explore the museum, take part in a hands-on workshop looking at mosaics, archaeology and food and they also go on a Roman march around Chester in costume learning about the amphitheatre, etc. (CPD for staff).

Ancient Greek Day *for whole year group* – ‘Portals From the Past’ workshop in school. Activities, provided by the company, are run by teachers in the classroom and an educational actor speaks to the children in the Dance Studio and shares facts, artefacts and interesting stories through drama.

Local History Week *for whole year group* – children walked down to the windmill on Forefield Lane and learnt about the process of how flour is made and how a windmill works. They learnt information about the Blundell Family and St Mary’s church.

Year 5:

Trip to St Helen’s Theatre *for whole year group* - to watch the Horrible Histories show Rotten Royals.

Local History Week *for whole year group* – visit to Merchant Taylors to learn about the history of the buildings/school, during 5H’s visit Princess Anne was visiting and they got to see her landing in a helicopter. The children researched the history of Forefield Junior School and created posters. Children also looked at the history of the Plaza cinema and plotted events on a timeline.

Year 6:

Victorian Day *for whole year group* – provides children with an opportunity to dress in Victorian-styled clothing and experience apprentice training, life in a Victorian classroom and Victorian games.

Local History Week *for whole year group* – a visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool to carry out workshops looking at links between Liverpool and enslaved people. The children carried out online workshops prior to visiting the museum.

Lindsey Morgan (school governor) and Tracey Fisher visited school to share information from their place of work and historic links to slave boats.

Additional Resources:

No additional resources for classrooms were necessary during this academic year. Subscription to History Association renewed.

Outcomes for Pupils:

The overall percentages of children across school that were working at the expected or exceeding standard for the year 2023-2024 in History:

86% expected+

Next Steps:

- To plan enrichment opportunities with the Infants to share lesson observations, looking at history books and children's outcomes and possibly sharing special occasions such as local trips and visitors.
- To complete another Local History Week – building on activities planned this year, ensuring children are receiving opportunities to learn about the history of their local area.
- To attend History Lead courses to keep CPD up to date.