

History: The Wray Common Way!

At Wray Common, we are passionate about developing enthusiastic and inquisitive Historians who have a broad knowledge base to draw from and who are equipped with the investigative skills needed to find out more. We do this through inspiring curiosity in the children about the past in Britain and the wider world in a variety of ways. To ensure lessons are as practical and engaging as possible, we immerse the children in History through discovering real artefacts in the classroom, exploring ancient buildings during school trips and inviting historical experts to school. Children link their historical learning from each year group by using the timeline displayed in every classroom, which helps to embed their chronological understanding.



In Reception, the children are transported back to the time of the dinosaurs where they are challenged with the questions such as: What happened to the dinosaurs and how do we know this? They have the opportunity to answer these questions by becoming palaeontologists and investigating real dinosaur fossils!



In Years 1 and 2, the children are expected to express their knowledge of the past using a range of words phrases related to the passing of time. They discuss changes that have happened within and beyond their living memory and discover which significant individuals from the past have influenced their lives today such as the Christopher Columbus and Florence Nightingale. Year 1 return to 1666 to witness the City of London become ablaze, while Year 2 explore the magnificent Hever Castle.



During Years 3 and 4 the children are exposed to a wider range of historical terms such as 'prehistoric', 'empire' and 'artefact'. They are encouraged to devise their own questions about the past and are provided with a range of primary and secondary sources to support their understanding. Year 3 learn about the differences between nomads of the Stone Age to the settlers of the Iron Age and Year 4 become enthralled by the discovery of the Ancient Egyptian and Roman ways of life.



In Years 5 and 6 the children are expected to become more independent in their ability to ask and answer questions about the past. Using primary and secondary sources, they form and articulate opinions about democracy in Ancient Greece and the treatment of people in workhouses through their topic on the Victorians. Children are particularly fascinated by the lives of the people who lived through World War 2.



At Wray Common, History can be found threaded throughout the curriculum, where children have the chance to express their historical knowledge in a variety of formats, from Prehistoric pottery making in Year 3 to writing their own myths and legends in Year 5. There are also multiple opportunities for the children to continue their research at home and share their knowledge with the class through their 'Brain Build' creations. We are passionate about developing children's love of History beyond the classroom, so that their knowledge of the past can have an impact on the future.