

History Curriculum Overview

Intent

At Park Schools Federation, our history curriculum aims to spark curiosity about the past and help children make sense of how history has shaped their lives today. We want pupils to:

- Understand chronological order and key periods in British and world history.
- Explore both **local history** (e.g. Shirebrook mining, Eyam, Robin Hood) and **wider national and global history** (e.g. WW2, Ancient Greece, the Maya).
- Engage with **key historical concepts** such as *democracy, monarchy, settlement, empire, civilisation, and invasion*.
- Recognise diversity in people and societies across time.
- Build skills of enquiry, critical thinking, and evidence use.

Our history curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils revisit and deepen understanding of these key concepts year on year.

Implementation

- **Enquiry-based learning:** Every lesson is framed around a “big question” to encourage curiosity and discussion.
- **Flashback questions:** At the start of each lesson, children recall prior learning from last lesson, last week, and last term/unit.
- **Progressive content:** Pupils move from *personal history* and *toys* in Year 1, to global studies such as the *Maya* and *Ancient Greece* by Year 6.
- **Local connections:** Pupils study Shirebrook’s mining history, Sherwood Forest, and the story of Eyam to connect the national story to their own lives.
- **Vocabulary focus:** Key historical vocabulary (e.g. *artefact, reign, settlement, democracy*) is explicitly taught and revisited.
- **Use of sources:** Children learn to use artefacts, primary and secondary evidence, and accounts to understand the past.
- **Cross-curricular links:** History units link where possible to Geography (maps, places), Art (e.g. Tudor portraits, Egyptian art), and English (non-chronological reports, recounts, persuasive writing).

Impact

By the end of KS2, pupils will be able to:

- Place key periods, events, and people into chronological order.
- Use subject vocabulary with confidence to explain historical learning.
- Ask and answer enquiry questions using evidence.
- Make connections across time periods and between local, national, and world history.
- Recognise how ideas and events in the past (e.g. democracy in Athens, the Industrial Revolution, WW2) continue to shape the world today.

Our pupils leave Park Schools Federation as curious, reflective learners with a strong sense of identity, cultural awareness, and understanding of their place in history.

Topic Overview

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
FS2	How we have changed from a baby to now.	Explore the Monarchy & know the features of castles.	Explore holidays from the past to the present.
Year 1	Personal family history – Who are you?	Comparison – Monarchy and my life.	Toys – past and present.
	Significant Historical events		
Year 2	Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night	George Stephenson and the invention of the railways	First aeroplane flight
	Ancient History		
Year 3	Robin Hood & Sherwood Forest.	Stone Age to Iron Age.	Ancient Egypt.
	Invaders		
Year 4	Romans	Eyam & the Black Death	Anglo-Saxons & the Scots followed by the Vikings
	Local History		
Year 5	Tudors (Hardwick Hall)	Local History – Victorians and Mining	Changes in modern Britain
	Democracy		
Year 6	Ancient Greece	WW2	Ancient Maya