

History Curriculum at Stamshaw Infant School

Intent

At Stamshaw Infant School, we value History as an important part of our children's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to stimulate an interest and a love of learning about the past so that children ask questions and learn to think critically. We nurture our children's interest by exploring key people and events through History and how and why the world has changed over time. Through our teaching, children develop their understanding of the importance of using evidence and thinking as a historian in order to investigate and enquire. The children use a range of sources to gain an insight into how people around the world used to live and how interpretations of this may differ. Through timelines and discussion, we teach children a sense of chronology, in order to develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. We seek to inspire a curiosity and fascination about the past and its influential people; to promote our children's interest and understanding of ways of life at different times and why people acted the way they did and why such events happened. Our History curriculum has been designed to cover all of the knowledge and understanding as set out in the National Curriculum and beyond and seeks specifically to develop children's historical skills, vocabulary and literacy.

Implementation

History is taught following the National Curriculum and Development Matters and is delivered through our topic lessons or discretely. Topics are blocked to allow our children to focus on developing their knowledge and skills and therefore allowing for each topic to be studied in depth. Teachers have identified key knowledge, concepts and skills and our progression of skills document outlines how these are developed across Early Years and Key Stage 1. Children are supported to make links and develop a deeper understanding of the subject by recalling previous units of learning.

The Early Years Curriculum supports children's understanding of History through the teaching of 'Understanding the World'. Children have many first hand experiences when learning about the past. They are presented with pictures, stories, artefacts and are given time to explore and discuss similarities and differences. They begin to explore chronology through recognising and discussing about events that happened before they were born and memorable key events in their lives since they were born. In Key Stage 1, History begins by looking at the children's own personal history and introduces them to the idea of chronology and timelines. Children learn about significant events and people who have shaped society, locally, nationally and globally. They are given opportunities, to study artefacts leading to enquiry, investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and presentation. Children will make connections, create their own accounts and use evidence to question why and how historical events have happened.

Educational visits, theatre shows and visitors are planned during the school year, to enrich and enhance the children's learning experiences within our History curriculum. Our planned trips spark awe and wonder and bring our children's experiences and places to life in which they have been learning about in class. Whole school historical related themed weeks such as Remembrance Week, Christmas Around the World and cultural events such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee allows for a wide range of historical and cross curricular skills to be provoked and developed.

Impact

History at Stamshaw Infant School is engaging, memorable and exciting whilst also providing an in-depth understanding of History and the associated skills such as investigation, enquiry and analysis. Children will be confident to communicate their learning through discussions, recordings, drawings, debates and writing using subject specific vocabulary. Children enjoy History and are able to recall their learning over time. Children's books evidence that history is taught at an age appropriate level across the school and that there is a breadth of coverage. Our children's curiosity will be ignited and their minds opened in readiness to discover more about local and world History through their learning and first hand experiences with us and be effectively prepared for the next stage of their educational journey within the subject of History.