



Royston St John Baptist C of E Primary School

History Curriculum Journey

We have developed a bespoke knowledge-rich curriculum which gives children access to broad knowledge at Royston St John the Baptist Primary. We have a well sequenced programme that builds knowledge and vocabulary in a well thought out way and ensures that learning is remembered for the long term. We ensure content meets and exceeds the national curriculum. Content is planned so that more difficult abstract concepts are covered in different contexts over time.

Pupils use their studies to develop their writing and many units of work will contain essays for the children to write based on what they have learned. These essays provide opportunities to children to answer our 'Big Question' and demonstrate their learning.

At Royston St John Baptist Primary, we believe that high-quality history lessons inspire children to want to know more about the past and to think and act as historians. By linking learning to a range of topics, children have opportunities to investigate and interpret the past, understand chronology, build an overview of Britain's past as well as that of the wider world, and to be able to communicate historically. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgements. History 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 their own identity and the challenge of their time.

We develop children with the following essential characteristics to help them become historians:

- An excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events and contexts from a range of historical periods, including significant events in Britain's past
- The ability to think critically about history and communicate ideas confidently to a range of audiences
- The ability to support, evaluate and challenge their own and others' views using historical evidence from a range of sources
- The ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past by formulating and refining questions and lines of enquiry
- A respect for historical evidence and the ability to make critical use of it to support their learning
- A desire to embrace challenging activities, including opportunities to undertake high-quality research across a range of history topics
- A developing sense of curiosity about the past and how and why people interpret the past in different ways.

Key Stage 1 Journey

Year 1 – Summer 1

Key Text: In the Castle, What were castles for?

Big Question: Why were Castles important?

Theme: Kings, Queens and Castles

Year 2 – Autumn 1

Key Text: Who was Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale

Big Question: Why were Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole's lives important?

Theme: Famous Nurses

Year 2 – Spring 2

Key Text: Toby and the Great Fire of London, Great Fire of London

Big Question: Why did the Great Fire of London cause so much damage?

Theme: Great Fire of London

Lower Key Stage 2 Journey

Year 3 – Autumn 2

Key Text: Stone Age Boy, Stone Age Tablet

Big Question: How do we know what life was like during prehistoric times?

Theme: Stone Age

Year 3 – Spring 2

Key Text: Meet the Egyptians, Tales of Gods and Pharaohs, Egyptian Cinderella

Big Question: Why did the Ancient Egyptian civilization last for so long?

Theme: Ancient Egypt

Year 3 – Spring 2

Key Text: Escape from Pompeii, What the Romans did for us

Big Question: What is the legacy of Romans in Britain?

Theme: The Romans

Year 4 – Spring 2

Key Text: Beowulf, Alfred the Great

Big Question: How did Britain change during the Anglo-Saxon times?

Theme: Anglo Saxons

Year 4 – Summer 1

Key Text: Who were the Vikings, There's a Viking in my bed

Big Question: Why were the Vikings so vicious?

Theme: Vikings

Upper Key Stage 2 Journey

Year 5 – Autumn 2

Key Text: The Coal Mine

Big Question: Should the coal mines have been closed?

Theme: Mining

Year 5 – Summer 1

Key Text: Greek Myths, A Visitors Guide to Ancient Greece

Big Question: What would our lives be like if there has been no ancient Greek empire?

Theme: Ancient Greece

Year 6 – Autumn 1

Key Text: Voices from the Second World War, Rose Blanche

Big Question: Why did the world go to war in 1939? What was life like for people in Britain during World War II?

Theme: World War II

Year 6 – Summer 1

Key Text: Early Islamic Civilization

Big Question: Why was Baghdad such an important city?

Theme: Early Islamic Civilization