



History at Wren's Nest Primary School

Wren's Nest Primary School is situated in the heart of the Black Country which is rich in historical heritage. The curriculum at Wren's Nest ensures that children grow up with an appreciation for the area in which they live. They learn about the importance of artefacts and how we need to preserve these for future generations. Children develop an enquiring mind, learning to pose questions about the past and challenging the answers. Our history curriculum is carefully sequenced using resources from Oak Academy, from EYFS to Year 6 to develop pupils' understanding of key historical threads: **power, government and religion; empire, persecution and resistance; invasion, migration and settlement; trade, ideas and communication; and warfare and conflict.** Starting in EYFS and Key Stage 1 with themes like family, remembrance, and significant individuals such as Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria, the curriculum gradually expands in complexity. In Key Stage 2, children explore ancient civilisations (Stone Age, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Maya), influential eras (Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings), and major national and global events (Magna Carta, the Spanish Armada, the Great War, WWII). Each unit not only covers chronological knowledge but also encourages historical enquiry, critical thinking, and connection-making across time periods and cultures. Seasonal festivals and traditions are woven into the EYFS and KS1 curriculum to build early cultural awareness and transition smoothly into more structured historical study.



Big Ideas

- ✓ Chronology
- ✓ Interpretation
- ✓ Enquiry
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Cause and Effect
- ✓ Questions
- ✓ Source analysis
- ✓ Continuity and change
- ✓ Threads: **Empire, persecution and resistance, invasion, migration, settlement, power, government, religion, trade, ideas, communication, warfare and conflict.**



Content and Sequencing

- ✓ **EYFS** - Children explore similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences including characters from books and figures from the past. Seasonal festivals and traditions are also woven into the EYFS curriculum.
- ✓ **Years 1** - Children explore significant people and events to build their understanding of the past. They learn about Queen Elizabeth II and changes in Britain through historical photographs, developing skills in interpreting sources. Later, they use traditional stories to think about the distant past and are introduced to key UK figures like Aethelflaed, Robert the Bruce, and Owain Glyndŵr, building awareness of national identity and historical significance.
- ✓ **Year 2** - Children explore the lives of significant rulers and individuals who brought about change in Britain. They learn about conflict, conquest, empires, ruling, and religion through the life and reign of Queen Victoria, focusing on how Britain changed during her lifetime. Pupils also study influential individuals who challenged injustice and fought for change, deepening their understanding of leadership, impact, and historical significance.
- ✓ **Year 3** - Children explore early civilisations and how life in Britain and beyond developed over time. They begin with Stone Age Britain, investigating what archaeologists have discovered about this period. They then study the Bronze and Iron Ages, considering how daily life, technology, and society evolved. Finally, pupils explore Ancient Egypt, focusing on what changed and what remained consistent across 3,000 years, deepening their understanding of continuity and change in history.
- ✓ **Year 4** - Children explore Ancient Greek civilisation, learning about its geography, culture, and key events like the Ancient Greek Olympic Games. They study important themes such as power, government, and religion, including Athenian democracy and the legacy of figures like Alexander the Great. The curriculum then moves to the Romans, focusing on what it meant to be Roman, the rise of emperors, and the empire's impact on Britain. Pupils examine themes of empire, persecution, resistance, trade, ideas, and communication, as well as the spread of Christianity following the Roman invasion of Britain.
- ✓ **Year 5** - Children study Britain's settlement by the Anglo-Saxons, exploring how we learn about their daily life through evidence such as religious buildings and artefacts. They then investigate the Vikings, focusing on why they came to the British Isles, their early raids, and how their settlement changed Britain, including a closer look at Viking York. Throughout, pupils engage with the theme of invasion, migration, and settlement, and learn about key figures like Aethelflaed and Aethelred.
- ✓ **Year 6** - Children study the impact of The Great War on local people and communities, focusing on the theme of warfare and conflict. They also explore non-European societies by learning about the Maya civilisation, their culture, and the mysteries of the Copan tomb, linking to themes of power, government, and religion. Later, pupils examine significant turning points including the outbreak of World War II, studying its effects on Britain and the changes that followed, with connections to warfare, conflict, trade, ideas, and communication.



Cross curricular links

- ✓ Direct links with:
 - Geography
 - Maths
 - Literature
 - British Values
 - Religious Education
 - PSHE
 - Enrichment activities e.g. a visit to a historic site.
 - Collaborating with the Canal Trust
- ✓ Wren's Nest Schema Webs of Food, Fashion and Technology.
- ✓ External providers such as The Canal Trust.



Retrieval

- ✓ Quizzes
- ✓ Tasks and activities
- ✓ Big Questions
- ✓ Schemas
- ✓ Debates
- ✓ WOW Days
- ✓ Hinge questions



Progress

- ✓ Low-stake quizzes
- ✓ End of unit challenges
- ✓ Formative assessments
- ✓ Children's books
- ✓ Content mapping of the skills and knowledge of the curriculum
- ✓ Increase in the use of historical language and concepts (disciplinary skills).
- ✓ Working Wall



Support

- ✓ Inclusion for all children.
- ✓ Children in provision sets to access strength lessons in year groups
- ✓ Tiered Vocabulary
- ✓ Differentiated activities based on historical skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Groups across school
- ✓ Working Walls
- ✓ Adult support in the classrooms
- ✓ Wren's Nest Writing Pathway
- ✓ High quality artefacts
- ✓ Work with North Dudley Schools
- ✓ Staff CPD
- ✓ Collaboration with the Canal Trust
- ✓ Oak Academy