

History at Buttsbury Primary School

At Buttsbury Primary School, the intent of our History curriculum is to inspire curiosity and a lifelong interest in the past by providing rich, engaging opportunities that draw on children's real-life experiences and local context. Children will develop a range of historical skills. In Reception and Key Stage 1, children develop an understanding of what the 'past' means by exploring their personal past, significant people, local events, and time periods within and beyond living memory. The children begin to build a sense of chronology and participate in historical enquiry through artefacts, discussion and sources. As children progress into Key Stage 2, they deepen their understanding of Britain's chronological historical narrative and make comparisons with ancient civilisations across the world. They are encouraged to become critical thinkers—evaluating historical change, its causes and consequences, and its impact on modern life.

How is History implemented at Buttsbury Primary School?

We have a broad and balanced History curriculum at Buttsbury Primary School, where children are given rich, vibrant and meaningful opportunities within a curriculum that is ambitious for all learners.

Units of learning are blocked, well sequenced and build on previous learning. Lessons ensure that progress is achieved through small steps, allowing children to develop their subject knowledge, consolidate skills and apply their learning.

At Buttsbury Primary School, History lessons may include:

- Exploration and investigation through play, observation, and structured discussion.
- Use of indoor and outdoor spaces to promote curiosity and understanding of the world.
- Engagement with artefacts and historical sources (primary and secondary) to develop enquiry skills.
- Asking and answering questions to support historical thinking and analysis.
- Trips, visitors, and workshops to enhance real-world learning experiences.
- Independent research to build skills in locating information, analysing sources, and summarising findings.
- Comparing historical periods and evaluating their impact on modern life, heritage, and British Values.

What is the impact of the History curriculum on our children?

Our curriculum encourages children to be curious about the past and to be critical thinkers. By learning about the past, including local history, children have an understanding of the world they live in now and this enables them to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain.

As a result of our History curriculum, children are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for the next stage of their education.

What our children say about History:

Reception - "I know that when I was a baby, I crawled but now, I can walk."

KS1 - "We learn a lot of different things. I liked looking at and exploring new and old toys."

Lower KS2 - "History makes me feel like an archaeologist finding out about the past and we learn about important people"

Upper KS2 - "I love learning about the past as it helps me to understand how things have changed over time. In our lessons we do fun things like rowing a Viking Long ship and acting out a Viking 'Thing' or court!"