

## **History**

At Biddick Hall Infant and Nursery School, history is taught with key themes in mind linking to important local and national events and people of significance. We strive to inspire our children to ask questions about the past, think critically and explore historical sources and artefacts to find answers to questions. We aim to bring history to life for our children so that they can make real links with learning about the past. In KS1 there is a great emphasis on the understanding of chronology. Children are taught about the present, past and the distant past. Each classroom displays a timeline as part of continuous provision, which is referred to at the start of any blocked week of history teaching allowing children to reflect on prior learning to deepen their understanding of chronology. Key historical vocabulary that will be used is discussed, displayed and referred to throughout the block of work.

### **Significant events beyond living memory.**

Remembrance is a key theme of learning in the autumn term. Children in Year 1 learn about the events of World War one and in year 2 children learn about the events of World War two.

The theme is enhanced by use of 'boxes of delight' loaned from the 'Tyne and Wear Archives' at the Discovery Museum. The boxes allow a hands on approach in order to bring history to life. Children in year 1 use resources from the box based on life in the trenches 'The front line' and in year 2 children learn about evacuation through the 'Evacuee's Suitcase'.

At Biddick Hall Infants, we always mark Remembrance Day in school. We have a whole school assembly and remembrance ceremony to allow for reflection. Some children are chosen to represent our school at the local war memorial and take part in the remembrance ceremony in our community. It is important that our children know the challenges that people in our past faced and the sacrifices that people made, in order for us to live in peaceful diverse society today.

### **Changes Within Living Memory**

In the spring term, children in year 1 learn about changes in living memory through a theme on 'Toys'. To further enhance their learning children visit Preston park and take part in the 'toys' workshop. Children are given the opportunity to handle 'real' toys from the past and talk about the changes that have occurred within living memory. They are then able to answer questions such as; 'How are our toys different to toys in the past?'

In year 2 Children are able to study changes in living memory through transport and build on their knowledge about changes. They visit Beamish museum where they have the opportunity to experience travelling on transport from the past first-hand. They take part in a transport workshop where they learn about features of transport from the past and reflect on how it has changed. As part of this blocked work children study transport pioneers 'The Wright brothers' and the first flight, they are able to compare planes from the past, to planes of today and answer questions such as; 'How did the Wright brothers help the development of transport?'

### **Significant Individuals**

Reading and language is at the heart of what we do at Biddick Hall Infants, we strive to develop a love of literature in our children. As part of this work, in history, we celebrate the lives of two very special authors from the past by studying their lives and influences.

In year 1 children study 'Beatrix Potter' where they learn about her life and influences, her contribution to literature and conservation.

In year 2 children learn about 'Roald Dahl' and his amazing life starting out as a young boy in boarding school to an exciting career in the RAF. Children are encouraged to look for clues in Roald's life as to what may have influenced some of his most famous stories.

### **History in our Locality**

At Biddick Hall infants, in the North East of England, we live in an area of great historical significance. We believe it is important for our children know important people and events from the past where we live. Children in year 1 learn about the real life hero from the past, Grace Darling. They find out about lighthouses from the past and their purpose considering how they are as important today as they were in the past but how they have evolved overtime. To enhance this theme children visit Souter Lighthouse, where they are fascinated to discover that this lighthouse was the first to be powered by electricity.

South Tyneside is steeped in history from the distant past being home to Arbeia Fort. In year 2 children begin to study 'The Romans'. They learn about Roman life, soldiers and important people such as Emperor Hadrian. They find out about and reflect on what the romans brought to our country in the past and the strong influence on our culture we continue to see so many years on... To enhance this theme we explore artefacts from Roman Britain, using the 'Boxes of Delight' again, loaned from the Tyne and Wear Archives. This theme is further enhanced by a visit to Arbeia fort where children can experience what it was like to live as a roman soldier.