

What our children say...

I liked it when we learned about the sword makers and we went to their cottage too. Age 6

I love history, it's my favourite subject. I love learning about the Romans. We went on a trip to Vindolanda and Hadrian's Wall! Age 9

I loved learning all about World War II and visiting the Victoria Tunnel. Age 10



What History looks like at Shotley Bridge

At Shotley Bridge, we follow the Durham scheme however we have adapted some areas in order to make it bespoke to our school. Shotley Bridge is rich in historical features therefore we have ensured that our children are exposed to the history which their local area provides, such as the introduction of the Shotley Bridge sword markers, Shotley Bridge zoo, the war memorial cottages and the Spa which led to more tourists visiting the area, all providing opportunities to explore the consequences these provided.

The History curriculum at Shotley Bridge Primary School aims to inspire our pupils to become historians and develop their understanding of Britain's past and the wider world. It aims to provide an enquiry based, high quality curriculum which promotes curiosity and fascination, inspiring children to become active learners. The curriculum has been carefully sequenced to ensure that chronological order is paramount and that previous content and concepts are reviewed and revisited in order to build upon previous learning.

Examples of Learning at Shotley Bridge

At Shotley Bridge, a 'hands on' approach to learning is adopted; opportunities are provided for children to visit local historical sites and museums including a residential to Hadrian's Wall and Vindolanda, Jovik in York and are thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Where sites are too far afield, we bring the History to our school with our Virtual Reality Headsets using Now Play. This helps us to explore historical ruins and sites around the world. We maintain a strong link with local providers including the DLR to strengthen pupils' knowledge and understanding. Artefacts are also left in Early years for children to explore and develop an early curiosity of things in the past. Children use a significant range of artefacts, from DLR and sources of information (Keystagehistory and the History Archive) to evidence and make conclusions.

Why is History important?

'A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.'

By studying history, we teach our children to think critically, justify using evidence and to thoroughly consider both sides of an issue before making a decision. In today's modern world, it is more important than ever to debate and consider information, not just accept what they are told. Teaching history ensures our children understand the complexities of people, societies and change, thus enabling them to understand their identity within society. It shows them models of good and responsible citizenship; right and wrong, morals and ethics. History's true value lies in how we apply lessons from the past to our present and future ensuring our children do not accept things with passivity.