

# Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.

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English and Maths form the bedrock of the Primary School curriculum, but there is much more to discover and to inspire our children during the school week – albeit they are core areas of learning. This month we will focus on the History that will be taught this term to try to give you an idea of how that develops as children progress through the school. *A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. 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 challenges of their time.* Hopefully, we can also learn the lessons of time...



You start school life in Ash Class when you are 4/5 years old. Mrs Hunt (the teacher) instils in the children an idea of history being long, long ago (to very young children that can be yesterday!) so they will play and learn by looking at castles. For such young children a whole term on one topic would be overwhelming so Mrs Hunt will keep their learning fresh by introducing another topic after half-term.



The child then moves on to Willow Class (6/7 years old). Miss Kirkland will be talking to the children about inspirational people from the past and how their lives have impacted on our lives today. She is going to start by studying Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake (the school houses are Drake and Raleigh). Children will learn about their exciting explorations to other lands, the trade that developed from those journeys (thank



goodness for the potato) and the place that they fill in history.

We move now to Beech Class (8/9 years old). Mr Thomas' topic is Railways. The development of the railways proved a significant turning point for industry, agriculture and travel in our history. Mr Thomas will provide learning based around those concepts as well as highlighting those inspirational and talented people in our history who shaped this area of our development.

Finally, you will arrive in Oak Class (10/11 years old). Mr Dunning and Miss Phillips are teaching about The Vikings. The children will look at where they came from, why they invaded, their skills as boatmen (mirrored many years later by Drake and Raleigh), their religions and their lasting impact on this country and who we are. Somewhat sadly, we have already learned that Viking helmets did not have horns!

At Offwell we are proud of our creative curriculum, where we link subject areas giving children a rounded view of learning and the world. For example, in Oak Class the children have already made models of a Viking longship (D&T) and, in groups, are going to be creating



Powerpoints (ICT) based on one of the learning points. These topics can engender a life-long love of learning; they encourage reading, writing and maths skills, as the tools to discovering the secrets of the past, and as the means to communicate with the future.

We hope this has given you just a brief insight into one aspect of primary learning. We welcome input from our local community on our topics – when studying WWI, Oak Class were well supported by villagers coming in to share their relative's experiences – so if anybody has a particular interest, artefact or knowledge of any of the above subjects, please do contact us.