

Eagley Infant School - Nursery – Year 2 – History Skills Progression

Skill Area	Nursery (3–4 yrs)	Reception (4–5 yrs)	Year 1	Year 2
Chronological Understanding	- Begin to talk about routines and sequences in their day - Use time-related vocabulary (e.g. “now”, “later”)	- Begin to understand the concept of past and present - Sequence events in stories and their own lives	- Understand time concepts (past/present) - Sequence events - Use simple timelines	- Sequence events using terms like “before”, “after”, “past”, “present” - Place events on a timeline
Knowledge of Events, People, and Changes	- Talk about special events in their own life - Learn about family customs or celebrations	- Talk about past experiences - Learn about important people/events in familiar contexts	- Recognise that people lived differently in the past - Learn about key figures/events	- Describe changes in national life - Compare lives of significant individuals (e.g. queens, explorers)
Historical Enquiry	- Explore and ask about familiar objects and pictures - Begin to notice differences in environments	- Ask simple questions about the past - Use images and stories to find out about the past	- Ask simple questions - Use pictures, stories, artefacts to explore history	- Ask and answer questions using a range of sources - Understand different sources of information
Interpretations of History	- Begin to notice differences in pictures/toys/clothes - Respond to storytelling or images	- Notice differences between now and the past in stories, photos, or artefacts	- Identify differences in ways the past is represented	- Recognise that the past can be shown in different ways and suggest reasons why
Historical Vocabulary	- Use everyday time-related words (e.g. today, tomorrow, yesterday)	- Begin to use words like “old”, “new”, “a long time ago”	- Use basic historical terms (e.g. old, new, past, then)	- Use a wider range of terms (e.g. century, monarch, explorer, invention)
Organisation and Communication	- Talk about events and routines - Use drawings or role-play to show understanding	- Retell past events through storytelling, drawing or acting	- Talk and write about past events simply - Use drawing/writing to show understanding	- Present ideas in various forms (oral, drawings, timelines, simple reports)