

History – Overviews

Our town and surrounding area is steeped in history, and our curriculum makes full use of these invaluable local resources. Our local heritage includes coal mining, Binchester Roman Fort, Auckland Castle, and the story of the Northern Saints. At Hartside, the children's house teams are named after local historic sites; Raby, Auckland, Binchester and Bowes. These connections help strengthen pupils' pride and sense of belonging to their community through local studies, trips, and visits from local historians. We aim to inspire pupils' curiosity about the past and help them understand how history shapes our present and future. Pupils also explore other civilisations, comparing societies and understanding that different cultures developed at the same time. We maintain a strong local focus throughout, studying topics such as the Romans in County Durham, coal mining, and how local families were involved in World War One. To bring history to life, pupils experience trips to Binchester Roman Fort and Jarrow Hall, and handle real artefacts to deepen their understanding of the past. As developing historians, pupils are encouraged to question and challenge ideas, use evidence to support opinions, and engage in discussion and debate. Over time, they learn how we know about the past through a range of sources and develop confidence in evaluating their reliability and usefulness. Our history curriculum is designed to kindle enthusiasm for the subject, foster a love of learning, and help pupils understand their place in the world—locally, nationally, and globally

	Topic Overviews		
Year	A	B	C
EYFS	My own timeline	Moon Landings	Fossils/Dinosaurs
1	I'm making history	How can I be a history detective?	Why do we remember Beatrix Potter?
2	What makes Durham Cathedral a special place?	What special events and inventions have changed our world?	What were holidays like in the past?
3	Who were Britain's first builders?	Why did the Ancient Egyptians build pyramids?	How have the Greeks shaped my world?

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4	Why did the Romans march through County Durham?	What was daily life like in Roman Britain?	What happened when the Romans left Britain?
5	Were the Vikings really vicious?	Who was making history in Central America in the year 1000 AD?	Who was Tommy Armstrong and what was the town he lived in like?
6	How did life for families in County Durham change in the early 20th Century?	Can we choose the UK's most important monarch?	