



## The Opening Worlds Curriculum and History at Thorndown

At Thorndown, our history curriculum follows the guidance set out in the National Curriculum across the entirety of Key Stage 1. Across Key Stage 2 we are in the process of implementing the Opening Worlds Curriculum developed by The Haringey Education Partnership. Currently, for the academic year 2024/2025, this is being taught fully within Years 3, 4 and 5 and is beginning to be implemented into Year 6's history curriculum.

The underpinning values of the Opening Worlds approach are scope, rigour, coherence and sequencing. The approach ensures that all subjects across the humanities secure the highest possible quality of education for all pupils and are explicitly linked together.

Children will learn both substantive and disciplinary knowledge within each subject. This means they will learn the building blocks of factual content and the way in which the knowledge is gathered by professionals within that industry.

Through a key focus on vocabulary, supported by exploration of a range of sources and evidence, children begin to create links across topics and time periods, compare and contrast civilisations and build up a chronologically sequenced picture of historical events and innovations. These are all provided by quality first teaching and a range of high-leverage tasks which provide purpose for learning.

This approach directly builds the wide and secure language acquisition underpinning literacy and successful communication more broadly. Therefore, through this approach, children are supported and make progress across the curriculum. Additionally, the Opening Worlds approach develops children's curiosity about the world around them and encourages them to challenge information they are presented with. This allows all children to enrich their own sense of identity and understand the values of diverse experiences and contributions of others different from themselves.

Please see our current long-term overview to see the topics being delivered across our school at the moment. This includes the Opening Worlds units being used this academic year. Highlighted are the key thematic strands which underpin the learning across the curriculum. As children's learning builds, they will gain more of an understanding of each of these and how they support historians in gaining knowledge about the past.