

# Wood End Park Academy

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Date

## History Day 2025: A Journey Through Time Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to share this special edition of our newsletter, celebrating History Day 2025 at Wood End Park Academy! It has been a little while since we last devoted a whole newsletter to History and we are so excited to showcase the children's fantastic learning, creativity and enthusiasm for discovering the past.

History Day is always one of the most memorable dates in our school calendar. It gives our children the chance to step back in time and experience history in ways that are active, imaginative and fun. Across the school, teachers planned engaging lessons and activities that allowed pupils to deepen their knowledge — both about what happened in the past (substantive knowledge) and how historians find out about it and interpret it (disciplinary knowledge).

Classrooms were alive with excitement as children explored a wide range of historical themes. In Year 2, the story of the Great Fire of London came to life through drama, music and model-making; Year 3 journeyed into the Stone Age to create stunning cave art; Year 5 compared life in the Victorian workhouse to modern society; and Year 6 turned into code-breakers inspired by Alan Turing and the heroes of World War II. Everywhere you looked, there were thoughtful discussions, brilliant costumes and children thoroughly engaged with their learning.

We are so proud of how deeply our pupils engaged with their topics and how confidently they shared their learning with others. Events like this remind us how powerful it is when the whole school comes together to learn, celebrate and reflect on how the past shapes our present. Thank you for supporting your children's learning — from helping with costumes to asking wonderful questions at home — your involvement makes all the difference. We hope you enjoy reading this special History Day edition and celebrating these wonderful moments with us.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Johnson

Curriculum Director  
Wood End Park Academy



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

## Committed to Pupils Learning

Please note holidays during school time are not allowed. All term time holidays would be unauthorised and you may be issued a penalty notice (fine).

# Events

## Year 2 Great Fire of London

On Friday 26th October 2025 Year 2 celebrated History Day on the topic of The Great Fire of London. Children came to school dressed up in a variety of fabulous costumes from King Charles II, a baker, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Londoner, to Thomas Farriner's maid who was unable to escape the blaze.

Children enjoyed cutting out pictures and sticking them in order to then role-play the events of the Great Fire of London in small groups using facial expressions and gestures. Children had fun performing it in front of the class.

After this, children were excited to colour and create a paper model for Tudor houses that were burned during The Great Fire of London. We then lined up the houses close together to re-create how the fire spread further because of the houses close together.

History Day gave children the opportunity to learn songs about The Great Fire of London. The children loved adding actions to the songs and performing them as a class.

History Day was a fun, exciting and memorable day for year 2!



# Events

## Year 3

### The Stone Age

Year 3 embarked on a journey back in time for our annual History Day, focusing on the Stone Age. The event seamlessly linked with our history unit and our English unit on descriptive writing.

The children's costumes were fantastic, with many dressing up as prehistoric humans, ready for a day of discovery. Throughout the day, the children explored the fascinating world of Stone Age art, studying the intricate cave paintings found in places like Lascaux.

Inspired by these ancient artists, they then created their very own unique cave art masterpieces, using natural pigments to capture the essence of the era. The day also had a mathematical twist, as the children enthusiastically tackled maths puzzles and problems that involved Stone Age artifacts and tools, making learning both fun and hands-on.

It was a truly memorable and educational experience for all.



# Events

## Year 4

### Year 4 History Day

Our Year 4 classes had an amazing History Day adventure, transporting us straight to the ancient world of the Maya! Our big challenge was to become Mayan artisans and recreate a ceremonial mask. We learned that the Maya didn't just wear these beautiful masks for decoration; they used them in rituals and funerals to represent powerful figures like gods, ancestors, or the mighty jaguar. We loved learning the intricate designs, learning that the bold features and the colour green (a symbol of life and royalty) were key. Using materials like cards, bright paint, and feathers, we channelled our inner Mayan spirit to bring those striking, angular faces to life. It was a brilliant, hands-on way to understand the deep cultural meaning behind Mayan art, and we were so proud of the vibrant, symbolic masks we all created! Children also had lots of fun dressing up as the ancient Mayans for our brilliant History Day!



# Events

## Year 5 The Victorians

To celebrate History Day, Year 5 stepped back in time to the Victorian era. We have been learning all about this fascinating time period in our History lessons and could not wait to bring it to life in our classrooms. There were some fantastic outfits on show: everything from the poorest of workers to Queen Victoria herself!

Throughout the day, pupils focused on understanding the Victorian Workhouses ; these were buildings created specifically for the most poor members of Victorian society to live and work. We compared life in the workhouse to our lives today and realised how lucky we are that society is so different now. Pupils were most relieved to find out that workhouses were closed in 1930, closely followed by the founding of the National Health Service!

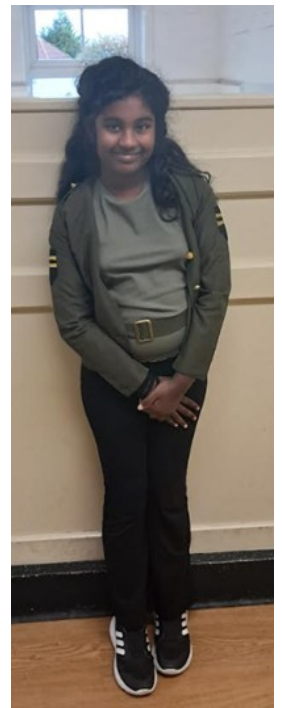
5AM also showed off their History knowledge to parents and carers in their class assembly. The families were incredibly impressed with their Victorian knowledge and loved the accurate costuming. Well done 5AM!



# Events

## Year 6 World War Two

Year 6 had a very engaging and enjoyable time during History Day. There was tangible excitement in the air as they first arrived in their WW2 inspired attire and this was increased tenfold when they were given the challenging task of cracking codes (inspired by Alan Turing and many others' critical efforts during World War 2). The children had a wonderful time doing so and managed to crack several codes. This task truly highlighted the importance of a day like History Day at Wood End Park Academy - to not only acknowledge the past but to live it!



# October Events

## Black History Month Celebrations

**This year's theme:  
Standing firm in your power and pride**

Black History Month has begun, and we are delighted to be celebrating this important annual event with our usual enthusiasm and commitment.

This year, Years 3 and 4 took part in a special Picture News session exploring the inspiring theme, 'Standing firm in your power and pride. Year 5 enjoyed a workshop focused on celebrating diversity, while other year groups will also take part in sessions and activities throughout the month.

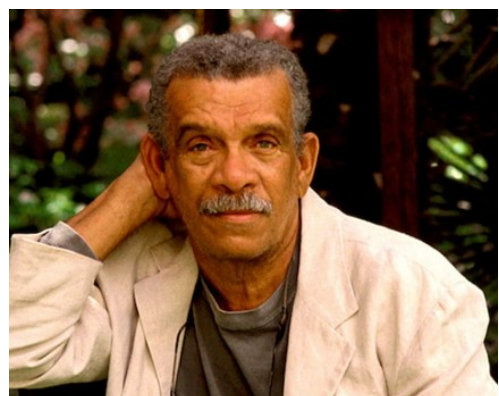
During the week beginning 6th October, all children explored the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah, an acclaimed Black British poet, during their end-of-day reading sessions. His powerful and accessible poetry will continue to inspire classroom discussions.

From 13th October, children will extend their learning through the works of Benjamin Zephaniah, Valerie Bloom, and Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott—poets whose writing celebrates pride in identity, resilience and community.

As part of the children's half-term homework, each year group will research an important Black historical or contemporary figure, helping children to deepen their understanding of Black history and its continuing influence today.

Our recognition of Black history and achievement is not limited to this month. Learning about Black history and celebrating diversity continues to feature in our curriculum throughout the year, with further events and activities planned later in the academic year.

We look forward to sharing the children's wonderful work with parents and carers at our Poetry Performance on Wednesday 5th November at 9:15 a.m., where pupils will present their own poetry recitals.



# Information



Please note all payments for trips, workshops and clubs must be made on parent pay.



Please provide your child with a named water bottle for school. No glass bottles allowed.

Proper hydration allows pupils to focus better and stay productive longer.



## VERY IMPORTANT:

### WEPA APP FOR SCHOOL UPDATES

We are aware some parents have still not downloaded the school app. We will be communicating important information throughout the Year via our app, so it is imperative all parents and carers download this at your earliest convenience by following the steps below:

Step One:

For Apple devices please use

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/piota-schools/id1333103848?mt=8>

For Android devices please use

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.piota.schools&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.piota.schools&hl=en_GB)

Step Two:

Type in 'Wood End Park Academy'

Step Three:

Go to 'More' then 'Settings'

Step Four:

Go to 'Notifications' Please tick your child's year group.



## Term Dates

**\*Staff Development Day** - Friday 24th October 2025

**Half Term** - Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025

**Term Ends** - Friday 19th December 2025

## Spring Term

**Term Starts** - Monday 5th January 2026

**Half Term** Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

**Term Ends** - Friday 27th March 2026

## Summer Term

**Term Starts** Monday 13th April 2026

**Half Term** Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

**Term Ends** Friday 17th July 2026

**\*Staff Development Day** Monday 20th July 2026

**\*Staff Development Day** Tuesday 21st July 2026

**\*Staff Development Day** – Pupils do not attend