

Loughton Curriculum: Historians

Spring 2025

Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of our curriculum newsletters - Loughton Historians! History learning at Loughton has got off to a flying start this academic year. In the autumn term, year 6 studied World War 2: they identified the axis and allied countries, studied the Battle of Britain and examined the effects of evacuation on families. Their theme was further developed by a trip to the home of the codebreakers - Bletchley Park! A group of year 6 children met with our history champion and were full of enthusiasm about what they had learnt and how proud they were of local involvement in the war effort.

Meanwhile, year 4 learnt about life in Celtic Britain and how things changed drastically with the arrival of the world's most successful army - the Romans! They learnt of the Iceni revolt led by Boudicca and evaluated how the changes brought by Romans may have improved day to day life for the people of Britain. A trip to Bradwell Abbey cemented the children's learning and they took part in a variety of workshops, including experiencing life as a Roman soldier and being a guest (or slave!) at a Roman banquet!

This term years 3 and 5 have been very busy with their history themes. Year 5 have been studying the Anglo-Saxon period and the arrival of the Vikings. A visit from a 'real life' Viking brought this to life and the children had a great day.

Year 3 have been learning about many time periods through their study of Kings and Queens. Always a favourite is the lesson about the infamous Henry VIII and his many wives. The visit to the Tower of London next week is hugely anticipated by the children - we are sure it will be enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your continued support - The Loughton Historian Team!



Upcoming learning in history for the summer term

Year 4 - Heroes and Heroines- significant women in history

Year 6 - Early Mayan civilisation



The Lady of Mercia

Key women in history

Who was the Lady of Mercia and why was she so important?

Æthelflæd (870-918) was the eldest child of Alfred The Great, King of Wessex which at the time, was the most powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom in England. She was born at the height of the Viking invasions and by 878, most of England was under Viking rule. In that year, her father had a great success against the Vikings and regained control of Mercia, a large kingdom in central England. Alfred installed a lord named Ethelred to rule on his behalf and when she was old enough, Æthelflæd was sent to be married to the new Lord of Mercia.

When Ethelred died in 911, Æthelflæd became the ruler of Mercia in her own right. This was the first time that any Anglo-Saxon kingdom had been ruled by a woman. The accession of a female ruler in Mercia is described by the historian Ian Walker as "one of the most unique events in early medieval history".

In 917 and 918, Lady Æthelflæd of Mercia led her armies to great victories against the Danish Vikings. She was so successful, that many Vikings swore to obey her rule.

Historians agree that Æthelflæd was a great ruler who played an important part in the conquest of the Danelaw.

Read More:

[Loughton School History](#)

Useful historical websites:

- <https://schoolshistory.org.uk/topics/primary-history/>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/teacher-category/history/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zcw76sg>

