Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	History	YEAR 1	TERM 3/4

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

Our school, is Coley Primary School it is in our town, Reading.

Our school was built about 150 years ago in 1872. This means our school has been here for over a century. It is a Victorian building, which means Queen Victoria was the Queen at the time.

The school is made of brick.

There were 37 infants and 19 older girls and 36 older boys from the ages of 3 – 13. Only 2 children could write their names or count to 10.

Some children couldn't come to school because they didn't have any shoes.

Lots of changes have been made to the school and it is still changing.

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

Victorian era- the time period when Queen Victoria ruled England.
Century- a period of 100 years.
Decade- a period of 10 years
Coley Steps – a set of steps that went up the hill between rows of houses.
Living Memory – things that have happened that people are still alive to talk about.
Education – knowledge and skills learned at school.

How can we find out what Coley Primary was like in the past?

We can:
Talk to people who came to Coley school and ask them what it was like.

Look at the buildings in our school and see which are old and which are new.

Look at maps and photographs from the past.

Possible experiences

Talk to people who came to Coley School and ask them what it was like.

Look at the buildings in our school and see which are old and which are new.

Look at photographs from the past.

Look at old exercise books.

Look at the **Behaviour book** in the office. It's a log of the children's behaviour at the school.

Have a look at **'The ABC of Coley'** –also in the office.

Photographs



'Coley Steps' around 1911. Children who may have come to Coley School.

The street that our school is on.

1945 Wolseley Street



WHAT? – Key Knowledge

What was it like at Coley in different decades in living memory?

1940s – 1950s

Coley School became a Primary School. So only children up to 11 years old could come.



1960s – 1970s

A caretaker and his family lived in the Caretaker's Cottage.

Houses next to the school were knocked down and the playground was made bigger.

A new canteen and swimming pool were built.

1980s – 1990s

Another new pool was built.



Before the new nursery was built.

Photo: Basher Eyre

2000s - Now

The Caretaker's Cottage is now an office.

There isn't a swimming pool anymore.

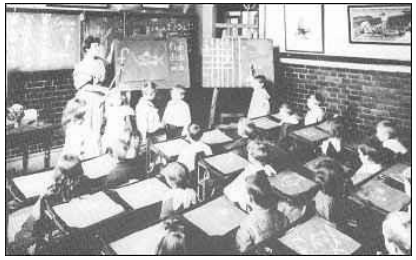
The new Nursery classroom was built.

The modular classroom was built at the bottom of the hill.

The story circle and willow dome were added.



What were classrooms like in the past?



In a Victorian Classroom.
The children sit facing the teacher.
The teacher writes on a chalkboard.
The children write on slates.

In a 1980s classroom.
There are computers.
The children write in exercise books.
The teacher writes on a chalkboard or whiteboard.
The children watch programmes on a TV or from a video.









Our Classrooms today.
We have interactive white boards.
We have tablets and laptops.
We work in exercise books.
We still use whiteboards.