History Class 1 Year A
Toys

Substantive concept: Childhood

Disciplinary concept: Change and continuity

Summative Question: How have toys changed over the past 80 years?

What is this topic about?
In this unit, we will develop our historical enquiry skills by understanding similarities, differences and change by comparing toys of today to toys of the past. We will consider the toys we have liked throughout our lifetimes and find out about the toys of the past through observing photographs and artefacts. We will look at how specific types of toys, such as teddy bears, have changed over time, placing these changes on a timeline. We will explore the development of toys such as changes to material, introduction of safety measures and new technology.

By the end of the topic pupils should know:
- The toys they have enjoyed over their lifetime.
- Some of the toys their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents played with.
- How their toys today are the same as or different to their parents', grandparents' and great-grandparents' toys.
- The way toys are made has changed over time.

During this topic, pupils will work historically to:
- Use some everyday terms about the passing of time
- Observe and use photographs and artefacts to find out about the toys of the past.
- Understand that some things about toys have changed and some things have stayed the same.
- Sort and place toys of different generations and then complete sentences about the passing of time.
- Begin to understand that some things change and some things stay nearly the same.
- Begin to identify old and new things across periods of time through pictures, photographs and objects.








Key Knowledge (linked to concepts). What children NEED to know.
Toys have changed a lot over the past 80 years in the way they look, what they are made from, and how they are played with. In the past, many toys were handmade from wood, metal, or fabric, and often didn't need batteries or electricity. Today, lots of toys are made from plastic, use bright colours, and some have lights, sounds, or moving parts powered by technology. Some old toys, like dolls, teddies, and balls, are still popular, but they may look and work differently now. This shows how toys reflect changes in materials, technology, and the way children play.

Prior Learning: Change and continuity: Changes within living memory – transport, Changes in living memory – food.

Key Vocabulary		
childhood	recent	similar
change and continuity	different	simple
earliest	modern	detail