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Geography

Hello and welcome to our next curriculum newsletter, this time with a focus on Geography. Here you will find out some important information to help you keep up to date with all things related to Geography within school.

Thank you for taking the time to read it and if you have any questions feel free to get in touch. Miss Hall

National Curriculum aims: A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Nursery begin their year by focusing on developing their understanding of the world around them through the study of different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. This then leads to developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.

Moving to **Reception** the children continue to develop their understanding of the world by a more in-depth study of their environment through the topic 'The Environment: What can we do to look after our local environment?'. They focus and learn how to show care and concern for living things and spaces around them.

In **Year 1** the children begin to develop their locational knowledge through their topic 'Exploring where we live: How do we find out about our surrounding environment?'. They learn to use compass directions (north, south, east, west) and locational/directional language (near, far, left, right) to describe the location of features and routes on a map. Into their next Geography topic of the year the children also develop an understanding of human and physical Geography through the study of 'Physical features of our country: How and why does our country look different to India?' They learn about identifying seasonal and weather patterns in the areas studied, using vocabulary including; physical features- beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather. Human features- city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop.

The children begin **Year 2** by completing an in-depth study of the United Kingdom through their topic 'UK: What is the United Kingdom?'. They learn to name, locate and identify characteristics of the 4 countries and capital cities of the UK including seas. Alongside consolidating their understanding and creating of maps, atlases and globes to identify the UK and its countries, using simple compass directions and locational/directional language. In the Summer term the children look at the world in a wider focus, they do this through their study of the topic 'Continents and Oceans: What does our world look like from different perspectives?' The children learn to name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. This developed knowledge and skills allows the children to successfully move and progress into Key Stage 2 with a basis to their Geography understanding.



Key Stage 2

Progressing through the Geography curriculum by **Year 3** the children begin to study in more depth the regions of the UK through their study of the topic 'UK Mapping: What are the key features of the United Kingdom?'. They learn how to name and locate the counties and cities of the UK, regions and characteristics and focus on how some aspects have changed over time.

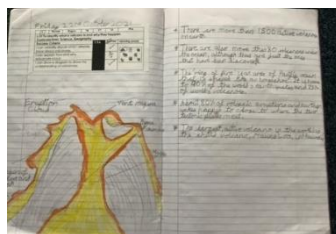
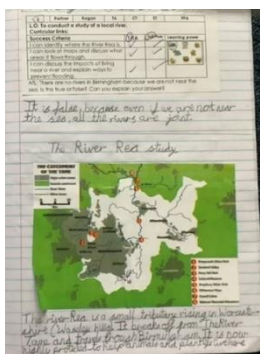
Moving into **Year 4**, the children begin their year by learning about weather patterns and our natural world through their study of the topic 'Extreme Weather: Why do we have extreme weather in different places at certain times?'. They learn how to describe and understand physical geography- including climate zones, biomes, vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, earthquakes, volcanoes and the water cycle. Discovering natural disasters around the world and closer to home with local flooding.

By **Year 5** the developed knowledge and understanding leads the children into the topic on Europe and making comparisons between countries. They do this through their study of the topic 'Europe: What are the similarities and differences between a region of the UK and a region of Finland?' They focus on the human Geography for each chosen country including types of settlement, land use, economic activity, trade links, distribution of natural resources, food, minerals and water. Concluding with comparative focus on the similarities and differences of human and physical Geography of the two countries. Towards the end of the year, the children complete their final project 'Fieldwork: How can we use fieldwork to help us understand our surroundings?'. They learn to use the 8 points of a compass, four and 6 figure grid references, symbols and key (Ordnance survey) and use fieldwork to observe, measure and record human and physical features in local area using methods including sketch maps, plans, graphs and digital technologies.

By the Spring term finally to conclude their primary study of Geography, the children begin **Year 6** by their final locational study through the topic 'How can we find out about the world's countries and their positioning on a globe?' From this topic they learn to use the terms longitude and latitude and the position and significance of the equator, northern and southern hemispheres, the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic circles and they develop an understanding of the Greenwich Meridian and the time zones through the study of Russia and the Americas. With this knowledge, understanding skills to children have a better understanding of the world around them; their place in it and how to be global citizens.

Aims for 2022-2023

Now lockdown restrictions have been lifted we will once more be able to take the children on fieldtrips to consolidate their learning in Geography. We are also aiming to create more international links across the world and expand our repertoire of expert visitors we can invite into the school to support the children learning.



Achievements of 2021-2022

This year we have continued to embed the initiative known as 'Living Geography'. This means learning about the world through a geographical lens, not simply learning knowledge but developing enquiry skills, mathematical mapping skills and social understanding. This in turn helps the children to understand their place in the world. From the pupil voice interviews I have completed it is evident that the children have greatly enjoyed the topics studied and gained significant skills and knowledge. Looking forward into the final two terms we are greatly looking forward to celebrating 'One World week' as well as a residential trip for our Year 5 pupils.