

A SPOTLIGHT ON GEOGRAPHY AT RADDLEBARN



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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: The aims of set out in National Curriculum remain the same to provide 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. Geographical knowledge, understanding and cross-curricular 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- throughout the year the children begin to develop an understanding of the world around them through the study of spaces around them 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, both human and physical. They focus and learn how to show care and concern for living things and spaces around them.

In **Year 1**, coming up in Spring 2, 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 Summer 2, 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.

In Spring 1, the children in **Year 2** completed 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 Summer 2, 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

In **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?' in Summer 1. 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.

In Autumn 1 in **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** in Autumn 2, 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 in Summer 1, 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.

In Autumn 2, 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 Europe 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 2023-24

Following a very successful International Evening, we'd like to continue to expand upon our families representing different cultures and countries from around the world. If you are interested in this please get in contact with myself, Miss Hall, via the office. This year, we will be continuing to provide high-quality Geography teaching and learning in line with the National Curriculum as well as enquiry-based topics that allow opportunities for cross-curricular skill development and a basis rationale for the knowledge taught. We will be holding 'a day in the life' event, where each year group will focus on children's experiences of daily life from around the world.



Achievements of 2022-23

From the pupil voice interviews I have completed it is evident that the children have not only enjoyed the topics studied but have a depth of geographical understanding. We are looking forward into the final two terms and are greatly looking forward to celebrating 'One World week', International evening as well as a residential trip for our Year 5 pupils.

