

Geography Report

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Geography is a focus for each class during their topic work, which is roughly once a term for each class. There is clear progression of skills and language throughout the key stages. Local knowledge is built upon and a deepening understanding of physical and human geography is taught, such as KS2 discussing socio-economic factors and biomes. An over view is available on the school website.

During the last year many areas have been covered. The Early Years provision continues to observe and discuss the local area. The Welly Walks are a weekly activity which adds to the depth of their geographical knowledge. Maps of the village have been drawn. They are also recognising what makes a village (the shop, church, school). Ash visited a local farm and looked at differences between urban areas (cities) and the countryside. Geography also came into their Dinosaur topic, looking at the world and weather.

Birch have studied Germany, using map, locating rivers, towns and cities. They also looked at the culture and food (as well as language).

Maple have recently looked at London as their topic. They have deepened their understanding of the meaning of urban and rural. They used a variety of maps, atlases and globes to locate and identify different aspects. The internet has been particularly useful for aerial views.

Willow have studied France, looking at places and culture. They have just begun North America. North America will be studied by Maple next term, as we have the split year 5 group. Maple will create their own questions to answer in the planning for this. It has been beneficial for the KS2 teachers to share ideas and resources.

In addition, Geographical skills were developed during the much enjoyed Upper KS2 residential trip. This included orienteering and mapwork.

Also, staff feel that geography does flow through a lot of other areas throughout the year. Often other places and countries are mentioned in CAW. The school council led 'School in a Bag' project raised awareness about Africa and the bags packed actually went to children in poverty stricken areas of Greece.

Also Espresso News is watched weekly in Maple and used in other classes. This a 5 minute round-up of important news events throughout the world

Equipment

The PTFA have bought some excellent resources this year. Inflatable globes and world maps have been supplied to classes. Two sets of up-to date atlases (for each KS) have also been brought.

The Internet has proved to be a great success with geography. Google Earth and Multimap have been invaluable in the classroom as they provide up-to-date information. Often the internet shows mapd not usually seen such as night maps of cities and the world map in 'upside-down 'format'. Specific 'You tube 'clips are a useful, visual way of showing the children many ideas (the life of the river Thames, How the Thames Barrier works).

Looking forward

There is a lack of CPD available, but we feel that we have good knowledge with this subject.

During recent informal discussions, staff have noticed that many children do seem to have a poor general knowledge of countries and the world map. In Year 1 it was felt that the curriculum is challenging eg they should know the names of all the seas.

We decided to put up maps in corridors for children to enjoy. We also use an Atlas in guided reading groups as a non-fiction text.

The addition of the new globes is helpful as there is now one in each class.