

Humanities Updated 13.2.18

Our creative topic approach to teaching the curriculum ensures that History and Geography often provide the basis of many of our half termly topics. We believe in providing our children with a range of opportunities to enable them to learn in a questioning environment.

At the start of each topic, every year group experiences an immersion day. This involves absorbing the children into the topic which they are about to study for the coming half term. Throughout this day the children spend their time investigating their topic and then coming up with the ideas for what they would like to learn and how they would like to learn. This ensures that History and Geography are deeply embedded in the curriculum and provide the children with an awareness and understanding of the wider world. They thoroughly enjoy their immersion day and will often choose to ask deep, thought provoking questions to further their understanding.

The history curriculum places much emphasis on the big picture of history, chronological understanding and making sense of how it all fits together.



Our topic approach allows the children to make logical links between subjects, thus giving them a more rounded picture of the world they live in. The children will be provided with many exciting opportunities to learn about the continuities and changes between periods of time and how the past influences the present.

As children develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people, they will recognise the diversity of human experience and understand more about themselves as individuals and members of society.

As a school we believe that children learn best through practical experience and child led learning. Children will often experience historical events through role play and visiting speakers. Over the past few years we have invited many different professionals who have given up their time to share their experiences and expertise.





Throughout the school we give the children a range of experiences and allow them to investigate the past by looking at documents, pictures, photographs and artefacts to allow them to discuss and question evidence and, most importantly, reach their own conclusions. School visits in year three to The Roman Town house in Dorchester along with The Dorchester Museum continue this learning outside of the classroom. A Victorian classroom experience in year one at The Priest House Museum in Wimborne is a further example of enhancing history learning.

We aim for our children to develop sound geographical awareness and to develop a unique understanding of people and places. In Geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world.





As a practical, hands on subject, we give the children opportunities to develop the skills of research, enquiry and problem solving.



The children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures through their study of the characteristics of human geography and also gain an awareness of the impact that the physical world has on the future of an

environment.



We also include many fieldwork opportunities for the children; all children investigate their local environment by carrying out a number of fieldwork activities around the school grounds, Woodland area and within their locality. Children in year four take part in an exciting residential visit to Springhead, where they enjoy walks and trails to familiarise themselves with the locality, in order to compare it with Verwood.

As a school we teach humanities in mixed ability groups. Due to being a first school, we have a split key stage 2. The KS2 teachers work closely with Emmanuel Middle school to ensure complete coverage of the national curriculum learning objectives.



Please refer to the school's non-core curriculum map to find information regarding the learning objectives, specific to each year group, which the children will cover throughout the course of the year.

