

Geography

Our thematic curriculum provides the children with a range of opportunities for them to explore the relationship between the Earth and its people. In Key Stage 1 the children develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. In Key Stage 2 the children extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This includes the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

During their time at Oak Cottage the children are taught locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography and geographical skills and fieldwork.

History

Through our thematic approach our children gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Our aim is to ensure that all the children:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world;
- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind;
- Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry';
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses;
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed;
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

The thematic approach helps the children to evaluate past happenings in the light of the contribution they make to modern society. The many visiting speakers, trips and visits that we organise each year enrich the children's learning.

Our children become so immersed within the theme that they enjoy and are encouraged to use their own individual research skills in the library and at home.