

## **Humanities**

### **History**

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, children often have an introductory session that absorbs the children into the topic which they are about to study for the coming half term. Throughout this time, 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 will often choose to ask deep, thought provoking questions to further their understanding.

The new history curriculum places much more 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, visiting speakers and educational visits. 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 happen across the school and have involved a study of tThe Roman Town house in Dorchester along with The Dorchester Museum; a visit to Stonehenge; a walkabout study of the great fire of Blandford etc

### **Geography**

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 fieldwork opportunities for the children; all children investigate their local environment by carrying out a number of fieldwork activities around the school grounds and within their locality. Children in year five take part in an exciting residential visit to Leeson House, where they enjoy walks and trails to familiarise themselves with the locality, in order to compare it with Pimperne and Blandford. As a school we teach humanities in mixed ability groups. The Key Stage Two teachers work closely with one another to ensure complete coverage of the National Curriculum learning objectives. Our year group skills curriculum is highlighted each year and passed onto the next year group.