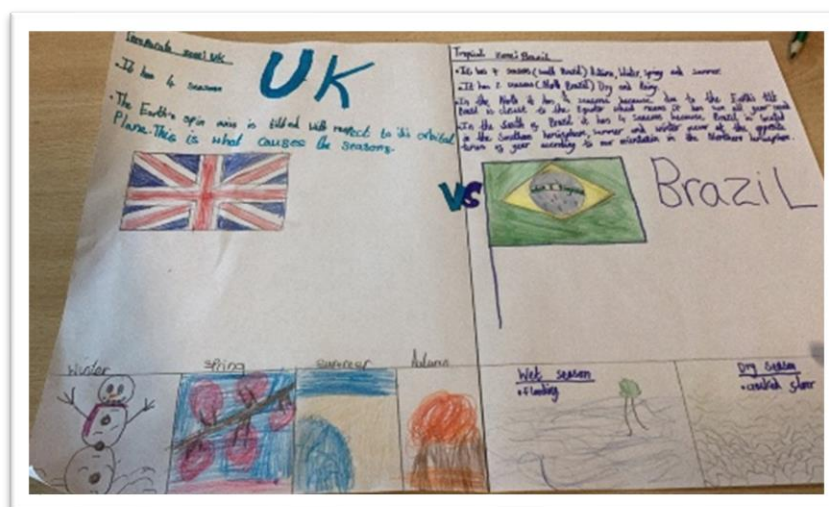
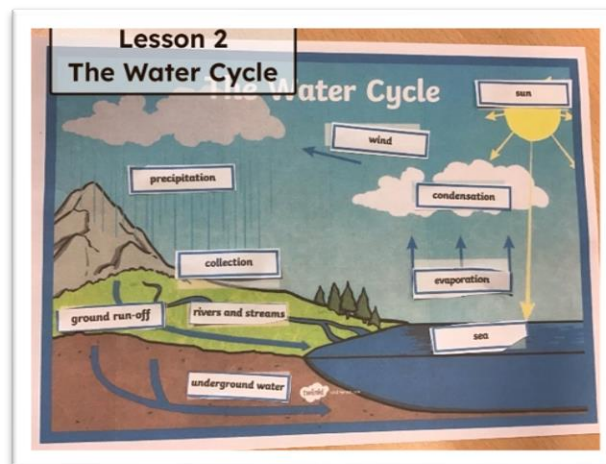
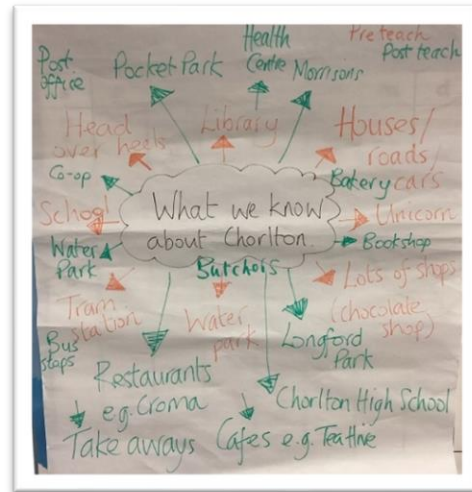
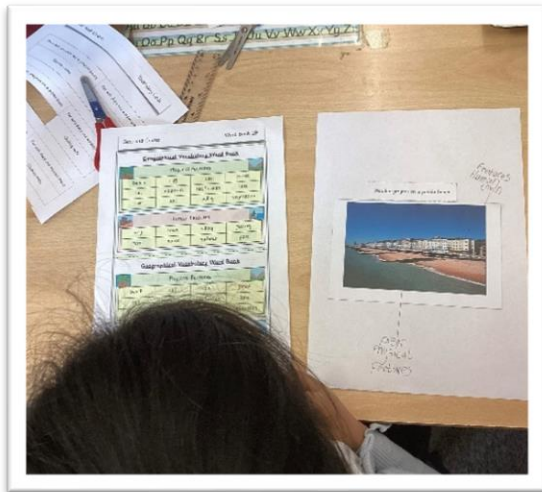


Half Termly Curriculum Highlight

Subject: Geography



Meet the Subject Lead



The subject lead for geography in our school is Andy Wheeldon, who currently teaches in Year 6. He took on the task around three years ago, and co-wrote the curriculum unit plans for the subject. His responsibilities in this area relate to planning, taking pupil and staff voice on the subject and checking that knowledge and skills are retained over time. He has a love of all things geographical and wants to get as much practical fieldwork into our teaching as possible.

Curriculum Highlights

During the OFSTED visit earlier this academic year, Geography was chosen for a 'Deep Dive'. Inspectors confirmed that the standards across school in the teaching of Geography was strong. Here are some of the highlights:

- Ambitious curriculum for all
- Substantive knowledge mapped out clearly
- Substantive knowledge is well-sequenced
- Progression is mapped well through different threads
- Disciplinary knowledge included
- Full coverage of National Curriculum
- Leader clearly understands National Curriculum coverage
- Clear set out of knowledge that the lead wants the children to gain, lesson by lesson
- Mix of use of book and iPad to record learning works effectively
- Pedagogical choices in the classroom are sound
- Trips and visits are well-mapped linked to the core curriculum and is an area to be celebrated
- SEND achieve in line with non-SEND
- Suggested SEND adaptations are in place, unit by unit
- SEND adaptations are reflected back when talking with teachers
- Leader has a secure knowledge of their subject area
- Leader is enthusiastic about Geography across school and also about receiving feedback to reflect on
- Leader has clarity in their subject intent and rationale



Subject Developments

The overall area for improvement from the OFSTED visit fits with their Geography conclusions. This is around assessing grasp of essential knowledge and use of this assessment. Whilst inspectors found our overall assessment in maths a strength, more could be done in terms of assessing specific essential knowledge.

In geography there are opportunities for assessment during lessons as well as at the conclusion, by marking. In addition, each unit of work includes end of unit questions for the children to answer to demonstrate their learning. Further work is being done to embed the use of repeated questioning across a unit in order to embed knowledge and skills, along with refresher work across each year group and in subsequent years to retain learning.

Pupil voice

"I like looking at maps of the world – they're really interesting"

"It's nice to see outside what we have been learning about in class"

"Orienteering was fun – running around with a map and compass!"

"I like it because you learn more about the world"

"I found the walk to the village green really interesting – we saw lots of things I didn't know about before"

Fieldwork

We love our fieldwork at Oswald Road! It is an integral part of our curriculum and allows children to carry out work in the open air and to see geographical features first hand, as well as utilising skills they have been taught in class out in the real world. Our use of maps and atlases, along with modelling activities also plays a part in this aspect of the children's learning. Examples of the kind of fieldwork undertaken are:

- In Reception children undertake an Autumn walk, visit the library and walk to the post box
- In Year 1 children take a walk around the local area to identify features
- Year 2 visit the Lancashire coast and observe the physical and human features, as well as carrying out hands-on fieldwork
- Year 3 visit the River Mersey in order to look at the key physical features of a river
- Year 4 do a unit called 'How has the Geography of Manchester changed over time?' which includes a walk through Chorlton to the village green, looking at original features of the village and examining how the area has changed in the past few hundred years
- Year 6 take part in orienteering activities as part of our unit 'How do I use maps and compasses to find my way around?'

