

Little Thurrock Primary Curriculum Overview

Year 4		
Subject	Learning Challenge Question	Learning Focus
Geography WSF	Where in the world am I?	Through this Whole School Focus (WSF) unit, the children will find out about their class country by using an atlas and globe to locate the country within the world and its distance from England; investigate the physical features of the country and its weather; consider how the weather impacts the way people live in that country; learn about the people who live there and what their lives may be like compared to their own.
Science	If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?	This is an exploration of sound. They will discover how sound is made and how we hear it. They will explore changing pitch and volume of sound based on their understanding of how sound is created. They will investigate how distance impacts upon what we hear.
History WSF	What put Essex on the map?	This unit provides an opportunity for the children to discover more about the history of Essex and what or who from the past had an impact upon the local area.
Science	Where has my dinner gone?	This unit focuses on the simple functions of the digestive system in humans and the different functions of teeth in humans.
WSF	What makes a time special?	Through this whole school focus unit the children will explore significant events that happen around this time of year.

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History and geography	What have the Romans done for us?	<p>The focus of this unit is on The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. The children will discover how the Romans attempted to and finally succeeded in invading Britain; about the resistance of the Anglo Saxons and the Romanisation of Britain and what influences of the Romans conquest over Britain remain today. They will focus particularly on the Romans in the South East of England/East Anglia.</p> <p>Alongside the historical aspects of this unit the children will consider the physical geography and land use and settlement in Britain prior to the Roman invasion and how this did or did not change during and after the Romans. Why did the Romans want to invade Britain in terms of its geographical location and resources.</p>
Science	Who are you?	Looking at the local and wider environment, children will recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; using classification keys to identify and name them.

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Geography and science	Is Mother Nature a heroin or villain?	Through the geography aspects of this unit, the children will use globes, atlases and digital/computer mapping to locate key volcano and earthquake sites around the world and consider how they were formed and how and why they occur; specifically in these regions. They will also learn about other natural phenomenon such as tornados, tsunamis considering how these impact upon people's lives. Through the work on volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters, the children will investigate states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how some materials can change state by cooling and heating. This will also include exploring evaporation and condensation linked to the water cycle and weather. Natural and man-made disasters can have a huge impact on the environment. The children will consider how this may pose a threat to living things.
RE/PSHE	What would you give up?	This year group will have a specific focus on Easter within the Christian faith; learning about the Easter story; how this impacts upon Christian beliefs and significant events. They will find out about events such as Lent and consider generally the idea of making sacrifices or going without. They will also consider the more commercial side of Easter and the symbolism of eggs, rabbits, nests etc.

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History	Baghdad or Britain?	This study of a non-European society provides opportunities to explore early Islamic civilisation (including a study of Baghdad AD 900) and comparing it to British history of that time (Anglo Saxons invaded by Vikings). This period is known as the Golden Age of Islam and children will explore why it was called that.
Science	Who's got the power?	The main focus of learning is based on considering reliance upon electricity in our lives. The children will consider what how we depend on electricity in our modern day lives and how electricity works to enable us to access so much. They will learn how to make simple electrical circuits that perform basic functions (e.g. lighting a bulb). They will understand what is a good electrical conductor or a good insulator and the need for safety regarding all aspects of electricity (e.g. in the home, railway tracks)
Geography	Does X mark the spot?	This topic is an opportunity to apply their mapping skills, read co-ordinates and give detailed directions using 8 compass points – an educational treasure hunt.
WSF	What makes an awesome author?	In this topic the children will explore a range of quality texts from a named author. They will experience the stories and style of the chosen author and increase their passion for reading for pleasure whilst doing so.

WSF – This is a Whole School Focus Unit