

Alton Infant School

Sowing the seeds of learning



The Aims and Intention of Geography

At Alton Infant School, we aim to provide a high-quality geography education across the whole school. Geography provides children with a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live in. Children become explorers from their own classrooms, beginning in EYFS and continuing throughout Key Stage 1! **We aim to inspire children's curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We build upon children's personal** geographical understanding within their local community by developing geographical skills, understanding and knowledge through studying places, locally and globally, as well as basing our learning on themes such as changes in the seasons and the weather. Children at Alton Infant School are given the opportunity to explore, fact find and apply their findings, working independently as well as collaboratively to understand the world around them. At Alton Infant School, geography is accessible to everyone regardless of individual starting points.

The Implementation of Geography

At Alton Infant School we want our children to develop skills in recognising, describing, explaining, comparing and evaluating human and physical geographical elements. We aim to produce independent and evaluative thinkers who have empathy for how others live, to develop an awareness and curiosity for other cultures and societies and the physical world around them. Children at Alton Infant School are always given the opportunity to ask questions, make links and are supported to allow them to make sense of the world around them. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, our youngest explorers begin their geographical journey by developing skills to understand the world. They make observations from maps, look at similarities and differences of life in this country compared to other countries and begin to explore the natural world. We make the most of our school grounds, allow the children to use their curiosity to explore the different environments available to us and begin to discuss the differences between them. We aim to encourage children to use their senses and have a hands-on approach to geography. Children are then taking the lead in their own learning, making links in their knowledge from observations and discussing stories and other non-fiction texts they might have come across as a class. At Alton Infant School all prior learning is revisited and built upon so the children gain a range of skills that will prepare them well for further learning in Key Stage 2. This adventure and explorative style learning continues into Key Stage 1. It begins in Year 1, with children continuing their exploration of our local school environment by following a map of our school grounds. They begin looking at human and physical features, using compass directions and also form cross curricular links to science by investigating and identifying a range of common trees found in our country. To build on their EYFS knowledge of life in other countries, Year 1 set off on an adventure around the world, extending **the children's skills of** comparing similarities and differences by exploring hot and cold places and keeping a close eye on the weather too. In Year 2, we continue the world tour, looking at the seven continents, considering what life is like from the sky, by discussing **birds'** eye views and making direct comparisons to our local and global community. Children at Alton Infant School learn how to draw and interpret maps, and develop the skills of research, observation, investigation and problem-solving. As young explorers, we encourage the children to talk – in pairs, small groups or class discussions, to share ideas, experiences or suggestions. We aim to allow children to record their findings in a way that

suits them, whether that be recording pictorially, an adult scribing observations or photographic evidence to support the children's work.

The Impact of Geography.

Geography is enjoyed by all pupils as they are given the opportunities to use their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them. Children are encouraged to ask questions, research and make discoveries. The children will be able to think geographically and develop their understanding of their surroundings and their sense of place. We encourage the children to talk- in pairs, small groups, on learning walks or through class discussions to share their ideas and experiences. Children at Alton Infant School may record how they feel suits them, whether that be pictorially, through pictures taken by the class teachers or through scribing down their own ideas. We revisit previous topics to assess and consolidate all previous learning in Geography. By the end of Key Stage 1, the majority of children at Alton Infant School fully understand the key attainment targets for geography.