

Geography at Droxford Junior School.

Our children's geographical experiences, learning and skills are carefully planned so these elements build systematically ensuring progression of understanding and application. We teach children the difference between human, physical and locational geography and how these are often inextricably linked. Enrichment opportunities enhance the learning in enjoyable and practical ways – these often offer intra-curricular opportunities

As a school we are acutely aware of our geographical context – sited in the South Downs National Park (SDNP). This drives much of the teaching and learning in geography; in meaningful, contextual and engaging ways that hook children into task designs. Every trip we go on we take OS maps and a compass!

In Year 3 / 4 our children study '**Contrasting Localities**' learning about the village of Droxford in terms of geography and make comparisons to the city of Southampton and its position next to the Solent, the River Test and the New Forest. This is enhanced with field trips to both settings.

The 3 / 4 children then embark on an international tour, travelling from '**Pole to Pole**', exploring different biomes on their journey through the Americas, down through the Brazilian rainforests and then Patagonia before embarking on a virtual trip to Antarctica. A visit to the Gilbert White Museum in Selborne establishes a greater understanding of significant Antarctic explorers as well as using the outdoor environment to hone mapping and compass work.

In Years 5 / 6 we build upon 3 / 4 knowledge of Rivers (who studied the River Nile in a history topic) significantly by looking closely at the River Meon in the '**Source to Sea**' geography topic. Children visit the source of the river, significant settings along the way until they reach the Solent where the river ends. They also go to specific parts of the river in the village to engage in depth and flow studies; habitat and wildlife explorations and geographical sketching.

In Years 5 / 6 the children learn about natural disasters, environmental impact and sustainability in their '**Caribbean Connections**' topic and '**Our Green Planet**'. Both topics build on learning from previous years, especially when exploring different biomes and international environmental challenges. This is developed further with the '**Precious Places**' topic where children learn about the challenges the SDNP faces and what significance it plays in people's lives. Comparisons are made nationally when looking at all the national parks in this country and then in America with Yellowstone National Park.

Our geography curriculum often links closely to other subjects such as English, History and Art so that children can make meaningful connections.

Our children develop their skills and learning in practical ways on residentials and trips when they engage in many outdoor adventurous activities such as camping, orienteering, sailing and hiking in and around the South Downs national Park. Children also visit the Oceanography centre in Southampton and have the opportunity to conduct project work and have visits from the SDNPa, Ordnance Survey and HIOWWT.