

Autumn Term 1 2026

Curriculum Newsletter

History and Geography

ST.MARY'S RC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
WE PRAY, PLAY & RESPECT ALL



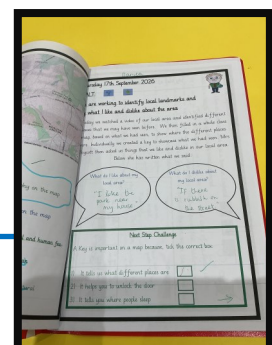
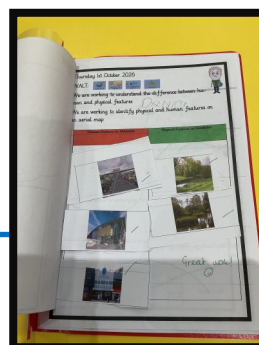
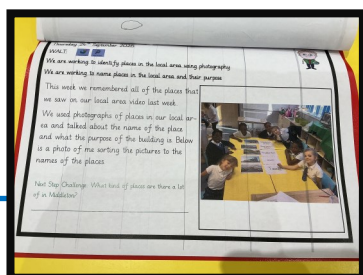
Written and planned by our Past and Planet
Explorers

In EYFS we have been learning all about our new environments, ourselves and our families. We have celebrated how we are all different and unique, with our own special qualities, interests and family experiences.

We have also enjoyed learning about seasons and going on a senses walk around our school, helping us to become familiar with our new environment. Using our senses, we explored what we could see, hear, smell and feel, developing our curiosity and awareness of the world around us.



In Year 1 we have been learning about our local area in geography. Our local area is called Middleton and it's where we live. We really enjoyed when we learnt about our addresses. We also learnt about human and physical features and found them on maps; before making our own maps. We learnt about landmarks and places in Middleton and talked about what we like and do not like. We really enjoyed this topic!



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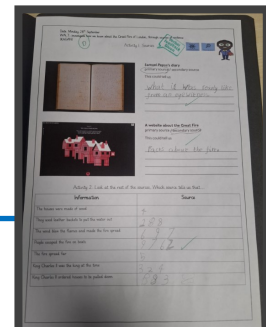
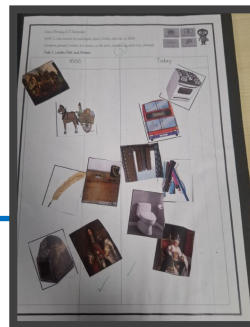
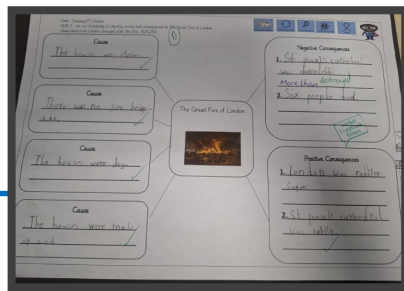


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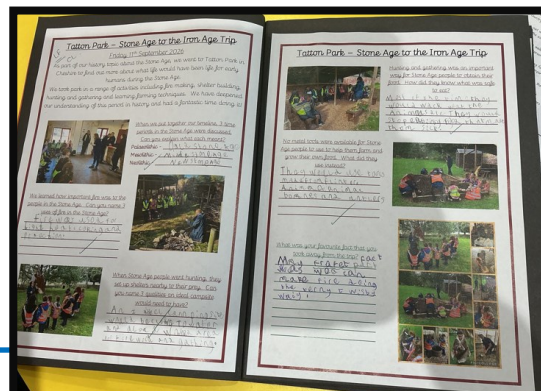
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In Year 2, we have been learning all about the Great Fire of London! We started by comparing what London looks like today to what it was like in 1666. Did you know that the fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane? We used historical sources and documents to find out more about what happened during the fire. We were even lucky enough to take part in a workshop with The National Archives in London. After finding out about the fire we explored the causes for it spreading and the consequences.



In Year 3, we have been learning all about the Stone Age to the Iron Age! We started our topic with an exciting trip to Tatton Park, where we found out what life was like during prehistoric times. We also used historical sources to investigate why Stonehenge was built and discovered some interesting theories about its purpose. We have really enjoyed finding out how people lived thousands of years ago!



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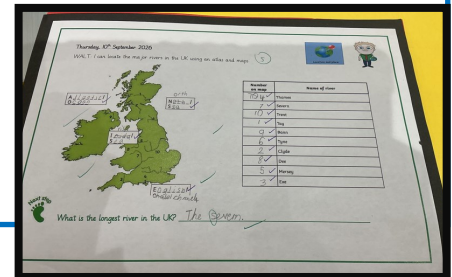
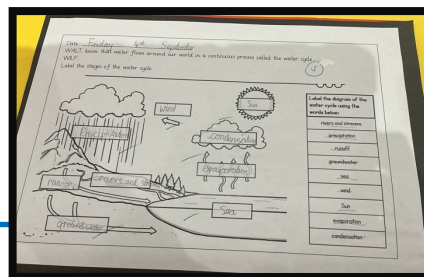


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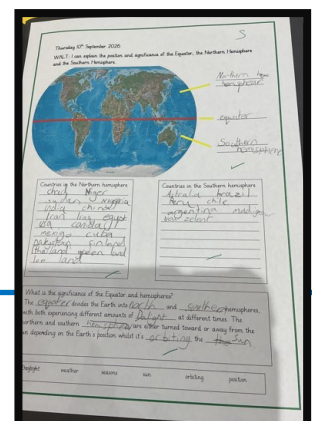
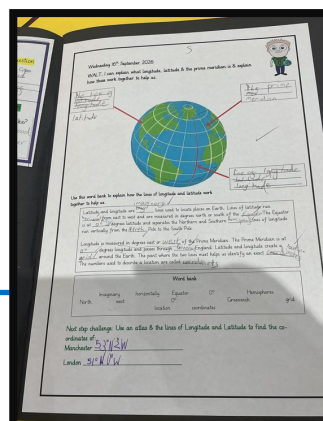
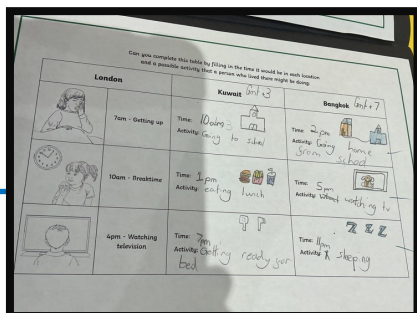
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In Year 4, we have been learning all about rivers. We started by looking at the water cycle. Did you know that it is a never-ending cycle? We used atlases to locate some of the major rivers in the UK. We also learnt about the journey of a river, from its source to its mouth, and discovered what a hydrologist does. We were lucky enough to take part in a workshop with the Canal & River Trust, where we learnt about the differences between rivers and canals and even had a go at creating our own rivers!



In Year 5, we have been developing our map skills. We have learnt about the Equator and how it divides the world into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We also discovered how latitude and longitude help us find places on a map and learnt about the importance of the Prime Meridian. As part of our learning, we found out about the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and why different countries have different time zones.



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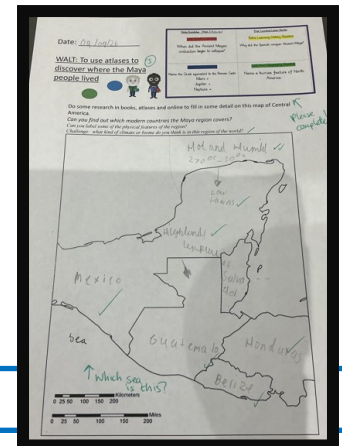
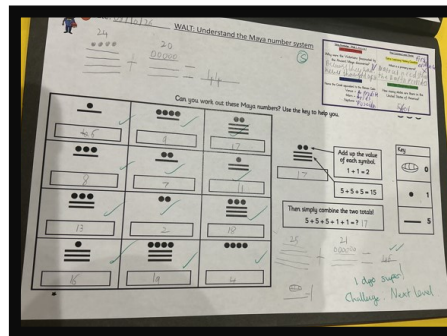
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In Year 6, we have been learning about the Ancient Mayans.. We started by exploring when and where the Ancient Mayans lived, using timelines and maps. We then used sources to understand how we know about the Mayans. We learnt about the Mayans beliefs, looking at gods and goddesses and also the Mayan number systems. Did you know the Mayans had a role in developing chocolate?



Throughout the school:

-A new group have taken on the role of Past and Planet Explorers for 2026-2027 and are excited to begin their role.

-Each year group reflected on the significance of Black History Month through the theme 'honouring our communities'.

-The Past and Planet Explorers got the chance to meet with Lynn from Touchstones Rochdale to discuss how they can support an application of a blue plaque for Frederick Douglass, a slave who campaigned in Rochdale.

What is coming up in Autumn 2?

Y1 - How are our toys different to our grandparents?

Y2 - Where are the polar regions and what are they like?

Y3 - What causes earthquakes and volcanoes to erupt?

Y4 - What did the ancient Egyptians achieve?

Y5 - What is trade and why is it important?

Y6 - Why was WWI a significant turning point in British History?