



# Nelmes Topic Approach



At Nelmes Primary School we follow a Topic scheme approach. Each year group studies termly or half-termly topics that are driven by either Geography or History. We also link Art and Design and Technology to our topics ensuring a cross curricular approach. These topics are linked to the units of study in the National Curriculum. Please see our topic overview for the topics your child is studying in their year group.

At the start of each topic we use a learning challenge question, which provokes discussion from the children. This allows the teacher to assess the children's prior knowledge of the subject and therefore plan from this.

Other subjects are linked to the topic, where applicable allowing the children to use a variety of skills, transferring their learning from other subjects, and embedding and mastering the skills they have learnt. These skills are either historically or geographically linked depending on the topic's focus and show progression throughout the year groups.

In Year 4, for example, they learn about the Romans. The learning challenge question is 'What have the Romans ever done for us?' delivering a history focus. The children will have opportunities to embed and master skills in chronological understanding, knowledge and interpretation and historical enquiry. For example, during the historical topics the children will be asked to explain how events from the past have impacted our lives today, can they plot different periods of history on a timeline and can they use primary and secondary sources to build more of an accurate picture of how people used to live?

Key skills are also covered in the geography driven topics. The key skills are divided into 4 headings geographical enquiry, geographical knowledge, physical and human geography. Children will practise skills such as identifying key features of a locality by using a map, describing physical and human features in a locality and naming and locating some countries in the Northern and Southern hemisphere.

At the end of the topics the children have time to reflect on their learning. This can be carried out in a number of ways, e.g. presentations, class museums, discussions, etc. On occasions, parents will be invited into the class so that the children are able to share their learning and achievements.

In Early Years the children are given the opportunity to explore the world around them and develop their geographical knowledge and understanding. They observe the similarities and differences between places

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and talk about their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

The children also start to develop their historical enquiry and talk about past events in their lives and in the lives of family members and give reasons why some people's lives were different in the past.