



Woodstock CE Primary School Curriculum Framework Summary of Themes

Early Years: Nursery & Reception

		Autumn	Spring		Summer	
EYFS	NURSERY	THIS IS ME! During the topic 'This is Me!' we focus on a different theme each week or fortnight. These themes aim, not only to help us get to know the children, but for them to learn to talk freely about their home and community and gain a sense of personal identity. Themes may include; My Name, My Age, My Birthday, My Family & Pets, My Home, My Day, My Face & Body, How I Feel, What I Like, My Friends and My Christmas! In the Nursery the children's learning needs and interests will help determine which themes we cover and for how long. We acknowledge 'special days' and 'special people,' as celebrated events from a variety of faiths and cultures occur throughout the term. In the second term our activities start to link with Reception's learning about the Christmas story. We work on a Nativity performance with Reception.	I LIVE HERE! As children join Nursery each term, we continue to ensure that all those new to nursery learn routines and feel safe and secure in their setting. We encourage independence in selecting and carrying out activities and enjoying the challenge of learning to do things for ourselves. There is a constant focus on developing relationships and reflecting on our experiences to help develop communication and language. The Nursery topic for the Spring is I Live Here! We focus on our own homes, and safety at home. We learn about different types of homes; materials homes are made from and how you build houses. Our emphasis depends on the children's interests and enjoyment of activities. The children are encouraged to talk to the group about their houses or bedrooms and perhaps new toys they may have. We will also enjoy fairy tales that feature homes such as The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks.		THE GREAT OUTDOORS Through a focus on 'The Great Outdoors' activities cover all areas of the Early Years Curriculum. There is an emphasis on finding out about the world around us and on caring for plants and creatures, observing the environment and giving opinions. We share wonderful books and stories linked to our topic such as Jack & the Beanstalk, Jasper's Beanstalk, Oliver's Vegetables, Oliver's Fruit Salad, Handa's Surprise, Percy the Park keeper, The Hungry Caterpillar and Billy's Beetle to name just a few! There is also a focus on growth and the change that comes with it, for people as well as plants. Over the summer we will start to think about how we have grown and developed, and for those starting school begin to work towards transition.	
		OUR COMMUNITY During this theme the children will learn about the people who live and work in their local community. Many people from the community will visit the children in school to talk about their job, show the children their uniforms and answer questions that the children may have. Visitors include a doctor, a vet, the vicar and the headteacher. We get to know our school community by taking a walk round the school and finding our way around as well as meeting the different people who help us at school.	FOLLOW THE STAR This topic explores light and dark both through art and science. The children will learn about light sources as well as how to stay safe in the darker evenings. The children will explore different materials to see how well they show up in the dark. We will also consider fire safety and visit the fire station, linking with Bonfire night. We will enjoy stories about night and day. Later in the term we learn about the star in the Nativity story as we explore together the story of Jesus' birth. The children of Reception and Nursery perform a nativity play at the end of this term.	ONCE UPON A RHYME This theme explores rhyme through poetry, nursery rhymes and stories. The children will learn a number of traditional nursery rhymes and use this work to strengthen their understanding of the use of rhyme. During this topic we will also explore traditional tales, comparing openings, characters and storylines. The children will learn to retell stories, adapt traditional tales and record their own stories using maps and recording devices. We also explore what tradition means and discuss family traditions such as birthdays, religious celebrations and other special days.	SPLISH SPLASH SPLOSH During this theme we explore water and all its uses. We experiment with ice and water and look at the changing states. The children look at rainbows and learn to colour mix to create all the colours of the rainbow. The children learn about floating and sinking and explore materials to see what they do. We discuss countries and communities who have too much or too little water and how this can affect their lives. The children learn how water can keep us fit and healthy and how it keeps us and our clothing clean. We explore watery art using inks, bubbles and watercolours paints.	AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN This theme is all about plants and minibeasts that live in our gardens. The children learn about all the creatures that can live in our garden, where they live, what they eat and how they grow. The children are able to build bug hotels, ant farms and go on minibeast hunts. The theme launches with a gardening day where the children all plant beans to watch them grow as well as visit the nature trail and do some digging in the vegetable garden. The children look after and grow a variety of flowers and vegetables around the environment and can observe them closely as they grow to gain an understanding of what they need to thrive.

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YEAR A	<p>INTO THE WOOD</p> <p>Children will use the local environment and grounds of Blenheim Palace to investigate different habitats and environments; they will explore, identify and answer questions about common and wild plants, including evergreen and deciduous trees; and animals and mini-beasts who live in the woods. Through Blenheim’s Forest School session, children will enjoy a range of activities including minibeast safaris, tree climbing, forest craft, den building, and pond dipping. On a visit into the woods following the Combe Mill Forest Trail, they will admire nature’s shapes, forms and design as they gather natural materials to use to create their own natural sculptures inspired by the work of the artist Andy Goldsworthy.</p> <p>Traditional tales with adventures into the woods, and their alternative versions will be used to develop children’s oral story-telling and literacy skills.</p>	<p>PASSPORT TO BRITAIN</p> <p>This theme will begin by thinking about the town, country and continent they live in. Using fiction and non-fiction books, children will develop their geographical skills, and knowledge of the United Kingdom – where its countries are located on a world map, their capital cities – exploring each one in detail; the national flags, patron saints; and traditional food, art and music.</p> <p>They will also identify the key physical and human geography or key historical places/events of each country including mountains, landscapes and settlements such as The Giants Causeway; Scottish Islands; and Snowdon.</p> <p>In science, children will focus on the development of working scientifically by; planning and carrying out investigations and practical activities; beginning to suggest ways to answer scientific questions; and gathering and recording information.</p>	<p>MEMORY BOX</p> <p>Children’s curiosity about the past and changes over time will be developed through practical, hands-on experiences that support the understanding of chronology. They will investigate the differences between their own lives and that of their parents and grandparents when they were children; including sharing memories of childhood and creating a family tree. Children will design, make and decorate their own memory box to fill with special memories and treasures.</p> <p>Children will travel further back in time beyond living memory to find out what it was like for children in the past, including; home, school, toys, technology, transport and food. They will explore first-hand what it was like to attend school and work in a washroom – life for children was hard! Children will also find out about seaside holidays – where people visited; how they got there; and how they spent their time. They will send postcards home and stage their own ‘seaside’ puppet show.</p>
	<p>AROUND OUR WORLD</p> <p>Children will develop their locational knowledge by finding out where the seven continents of the world are and how their proximity to the equator or the poles affects their climate. They will take a flight to different countries exploring their climate and land features; focusing on a cold region (Antarctica) and a hot region (Africa).</p> <p>They will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles; navigating their way around a world map. Children will explore the Animal Kingdom and how we classify animals; connections to places that they are native to will be investigated.</p> <p>Exploration of the world, with a focus on Columbus, Cook, Scott and Amundsen, will help children to understand that geographical knowledge of the world has increased over time.</p>	<p>CASTLES & DRAGONS</p> <p>This is a literacy-led theme around the mythical legends of castles, including Merlin and the Knights of the Round Table. The use of fiction, non-fiction texts and images, will inspire children’s independent writing and curiosity of the past. Children will develop their awareness of the past and chronological understanding through the exploration key periods in history. They will learn about types of castles (motte and bailey castles, stone castles etc); what they are made from; why they were built; and who lived in them. Children will visit Warwick Castle to gain first-hand experience of life in a castle, the various features and why they were built. They will compare the lives of the rich and poor during Medieval times and how they were treated differently.</p> <p>In technology, children will design a working drawbridge, and culminate as ‘Knights, Lords and Ladies’ at a medieval style banquet with freshly made broth and bread.</p>	<p>FIGHTING FIT</p> <p>Children will investigate what makes them healthy and look at the basic parts of the body and know how these relate to the senses. They will find out about basic needs for survival including the importance of exercise, eating the right amounts of different food types, and hygiene. Children will find out about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and how their work changed nursing and hygiene in the Crimean War; they will interview present day health professionals and look at changes over time. Children will look at how exercise affects the body and how some exercises affect different parts of the body. During our Health and Sports Week children will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of different sporting activities, as well as making healthy snacks.</p> <p>To further work on healthy eating, children will explore how to live a healthy lifestyle, including activities to support positive mental health and wellbeing.</p>
YEAR B			

	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
YEAR A	FIELD TO FORK	TOMB RAIDERS	EUROPE EXPLORED
	<p>Following visits to a dairy farm, organic produce grower and Blenheim Kitchen Garden children will gain an understanding of seasonality, and how a variety of produce is grown, reared, caught and processed. Children will develop their geographical skills to identify from where in the world different foods are grown and imported from. This will link to work on food miles and how we can work towards reducing our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Children will learn about the importance of having a balanced diet, research different food groups and how they keep us healthy; they will design meals based on what they find out.</p> <p>In science, children will work scientifically to develop their knowledge and conceptual understanding of the digestive system and its associated body parts, including teeth. They will also explore the requirements of plants for life and growth, and how they vary from plant to plant.</p>	<p>Children will journey back to the land of the Pharaohs and discover the fascinating world of Ancient Egyptian history. They will explore the Egypt of today and yesterday and discover when the Ancient Egyptian civilisation began and ended. Through visits and workshops carried out by the British Museum and local Museum, children will investigate daily life, such as clothing, childhood, and environment – they will even mummify their classmates! Children will reflect on how objects are a source of evidence which help us to understand life in the past and the secrets of this civilisation.</p> <p>In technology, children will design and make a working Shaduf; using research to develop design criteria and create proto-types to test them for improvement. The topic will culminate with an Egyptian Feast making flat bread; and sampling fruits and vegetables traditional to the country during ancient and modern times.</p>	<p>This theme will begin with children taking a virtual trip across the English Channel to discover the continent of Europe. Not only will they find out the names, locations and features of European countries and capitals, but they will also discover some fascinating facts about Europe including the work of famous artists and composers, and traditions and culinary dishes of different countries.</p> <p>Children will carry out independent enquiry-led research about a country of their choice, considering significant human and physical features and what attracts tourists there, to create a travel brochure.</p> <p>Children will explore and identify the way sound is made in a range of different musical instruments from around the world, and in the context of traditional music within Europe. Working scientifically, children will investigate materials that provide the best insulation against sound.</p>
YEAR B	EARTH MATTERS	CITY OF SPIRES	INVADERS & RAIDERS
	<p>The Iron Man by Ted Hughes will be used as a stimulus for children to become Planet Protectors by recycling and spreading the green message. Through the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) children will be encouraged to make environmental awareness a way of life for them.</p> <p>This will lead into a science and geography focus where children will develop their world locational knowledge through investigating patterns of where volcanoes and earthquakes are found. A visiting Volcanologist will help children to understand scientific knowledge of rock types, including igneous rocks which are produced as a result of volcanoes. They will research volcanoes and earthquakes and the impact they have on humans and the physical environment.</p>	<p>This is a literacy-led theme where children will step into the world of fantasy stories inspired by the work of Lewis Carol and CS Lewis. Children will delve into magical worlds of adventure and mystery and use their imaginations to discover what lies beyond. Don't forget to pack your imagination!</p> <p>Alongside this literary-led theme, children will explore the city of Oxford by; following the Alice in Wonderland Trail; identifying key geographical features of the city focusing on human and physical characteristics, and how these might have changed over time. Children will carry out research into what attracts over nine-million tourists to Oxford each year. They will also research significant people in history who have had links to Oxford and well-known historical buildings.</p>	<p>Children will develop a chronologically secure understanding of the Stone Age to Iron Age time period; the different sources of evidence and vocabulary used by archaeologists; and how to carry out a dig. They will take part in fieldwork at a local hill fort.</p> <p>Through a residential visit to Corinium and Chedworth Roman Villa, children will further develop their chronological understanding by learning about Celtic Tribes and how life in Britain changed with the arrival of the Roman Armies. They will learn about the Roman legacy – exploring those things that the Romans brought which affected our subsequent history. Children will study the cities, the rule of law, Roman numerals and the calendar we use today, and come to understand how many aspects of modern life can, in effect, be traced back in some way to the Romans.</p>

	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
YEAR A	<p>MEET THE GREEKS</p> <p>Children will take a trip back to one of the most fascinating civilisations in history as they discover Ancient Greece and all it has to offer. Children will be taken on a voyage of discovery to explore how much of this fascinating civilisation is still evident in our society today. They will discover the people, the inventions, the art, the technology, the mythology and so much more.</p> <p>Children will need to use their research skills to investigate what life was like daily for the Ancient Greeks. They will research areas such as food, clothing, education and family life and present the information in a variety of ways.</p> <p>In technology, children will investigate time keeping in Ancient Greece and make either a sundial or water clock; using research to develop design criteria and create proto types to test them for improvement. In art children will investigate clay work and pattern traditionally found during this period to recreate their own pottery designs.</p>	<p>AMAZON ADVENTURE</p> <p>Children will create a classroom map, naming continents and discussing the physical differences between North and South America; including time zones around the world. They will identify countries and major features such as rivers, lakes and mountain ranges, and learn about lifestyles, languages and some traditions. Children will take a trek into the depths of the jungle as they explore the fascinating world of the rainforest. They will discover where the rainforests are; what they are like; and who lives there. Children will look at the water cycle and work of rivers undertaking local fieldwork on the River Glyme and looking in detail at the Amazon Basin.</p> <p>Children will uncover the mysteries of the Mayan Civilisation as they explore Mayan ruins and from there embark on a journey that will help them to uncover the life, society and civilisation of both ancient and modern Mayans.</p>	<p>WAR & PEACE</p> <p>The children will learn about the history leading up to the outbreak of war. They will investigate the countries that formed the two major alliances; the axis and the allies; and use geographical skills to locate these countries on world maps. A focus on main leaders, such as Adolf Hitler and Winston Churchill will lead the topic into the significance of Churchill in our locality; including a historical and geographical locality study and changes to the town over time, fieldwork skills and OS Map skills.</p> <p>The children will learn about the Blitz and the cities most affected, locating these on maps of the United Kingdom. They will investigate what life was like for different groups of people e.g. those who fought, those who stayed behind and children. The children will go onto to consider how conflict impacts of the lives of different people. They will look at more recent conflicts and the impact these have had on individuals, particularly refugees. This should be linked to known stories of modern day refugees and immigration.</p> <p>A visit to Blenheim Palace will inspire children’s curiosity to know more about history on their doorstep.</p>
YEAR B	<p>RULE BRITANNIA</p> <p>Children will take a fascinating journey of discovery as they find out about the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England. They will explore where the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came from, how they fought for territory and power, and how their fighting ultimately led to the kingdom of England we know today.</p> <p>Children will find out about law and order across the ages and have opportunity to think about the kinds of crimes we have today, what punishments criminals are given, and how both are informed by history. They will visit Westminster and learn about the work of Parliament today. Children will reflect on their rights and responsibilities as citizens and understand the importance of the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and the need for mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.</p>	<p>IN THE BEGINNING...</p> <p>To bring learning alive, children will visit the Natural History Museum, Oxford to carry out an Evolution workshop where through close observation and handling of specimens, children explore how animals have evolved to survive in their habitats. They will investigate the work of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace on natural selection and examine important fossil evidence of the history of life. They will investigate the creation of the world – both scientific and Biblical.</p> <p>Children will blast off to the far-flung corners of the galaxy to find out more about the planets that make up our solar system. They will find fascinating facts about the Sun, Moon and Earth and develop an understanding of day and night, the seasons and the Moon’s phases. The Sun and the planets making up our Solar System are investigated, along with the other stars in their constellation.</p>	<p>GOING GLOBAL</p> <p>Children will learn how transport and communication can connect the world in more ways than ever before; they will gain an appreciation of what we buy and what we consume can have a profound impact on the lives and societies of people around the world. Linked to this, children will look at the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water. They will focus on oil and how it is essential to our daily lives, and what might happen when it runs out.</p> <p>Children will become global ‘caretakers’ by developing an appreciation of the impact of and increased pressure population growth has on our valuable resources. They will learn about the importance of safeguarding our planet for future generations, by carrying out research to find out about alternative energy sources and sustainable projects around the world and visiting a local alternative energy plant and wind farm.</p>