



Merridale Primary School

'Growing together'



Discover In Year 2

Jamaica

This unit has a focus on Geography and History, allowing pupils to investigate the similarities and differences between the UK and Jamaica, looking at climate, lifestyles, foods and daily life. The unit looks in detail at where Jamaica is on a world map and how its landscape is very different to our own, children are taught to look at both human and physical geography. The unit also looks at the lives of significant individuals like Christopher Columbus and Mary Seacole who made important contributions in the past. The children also find out more and celebrate Black Culture during Black History Month. The children are exposed to popular fiction stories like Anansi the spider, listen to reggae music and make foods including tropical fruits and look into the celebration of carnival. It is a very fun and exciting topic for the children to discover and learn.

Using and Recycling Materials

This unit has a Science and Design Technology focus, predominately focused around materials. The children are asked to collect a variety of everyday materials and then asked to sort them according to their properties. Children are taught to identify and compare the sustainability of materials such as plastic, wood, metal, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. The children are taught to conduct simple tests to see which material best fits a given design brief, eg what material would be best suited for a doll's house? Children are taught to gather and record evidence to help provide a rounded and balanced answer/argument. The children are also given an opportunity to create artwork from recycled materials they have collected - making a musical instrument as part of Design Technology and creating a portrait using recycled materials. Children also have the opportunity to collect data and record how much material is collected and how much is used/wasted as part of their Maths curriculum.

People who help us

This unit has a PSHE and ICT focus based around people who help us in our everyday lives. Children are encouraged to think about the many people who they know and do not know help them, such as family, friends, people in the community like Refuse collectors, Crossing Patrol Wardens, Lifeguards, Caretakers, Teachers, Doctors and many more. They will study a profession each week. When children research Fire Fighters, they look at The Great Fire Of London, looking at what it was like with no Fire Fighters in the past, and then look at how the role of Fire Fighters has developed over the years. A visit to the Fire Station takes place during this week. Children are invited to think about and ask a range of questions to professionals who come in and talk to them about their jobs. They will also be creating short films using mini ipads providing running commentaries based on the jobs and responsibilities of people who help us. Finally they will use SCRATCH Junior to create a game based around People Who Help Us.

Out and About UK

This unit has a Geography and Science focus. It looks at the UK generally and will compare our locality with Carding Mill Valley, looking in detail at the weather, animals, plants, habitats and other human and physical features. The children will look closely at the areas they are studying and visit them and create literature based on the area, eg a publication such as a leaflet or tour guide talking about the area and its positive attributes, this will be done using the Publisher program during ICT sessions. Children will identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats and describe how they obtain their food from plants and other animals using the idea of a simple food chain and other different sources of food. During this topic the children will be also be looking at the local places of worship within the area and focus on one place of worship, looking at which faith attends this place, how they worship and what they believe in, providing children with a respect for other people's faiths and beliefs.

Growing

This unit has a science focus and looks at how animals, plants and human beings grow. The unit looks at life cycles and how as humans we keep healthy to grow, which means teaching the children about the importance of a well balanced diet and exercise. They will have the opportunity to cook a healthy dish and create a healthy drink as well as partake in some sporting activities. During this topic, the children will also be taught how to use a program to make short clips of plants growing and changing, using the camera to capture different stages of growth. Children will then look at how the life cycles of plants (a bean seed) and animals (frogs, butterflies and other mammals). This unit ends with children visiting the farm.

Healthy Living

Year 2 have taken part in two healthy living weeks focused around the Merridale Marathon and Sports Day. The first unit was taught to coincide with the Jamaica Discover unit. It looked at the benefits of exercise and how fun and easy it can be to do. Children were taught how to play playground games traditionally played in Jamaican schools. Children also measured and marked a 100m track and then ran the 100m and timed themselves to see how close they could get to Usain Bolt's world record. The second week focuses around healthy lifestyle choices including exercise and healthy eating. Children looked at simple ways of changing their lifestyle and making healthy choices as well as cooking a range of healthy, savoury dishes.