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**Thematic Curriculum Rationale for Key Stage 1**

The aim of the Key Stage One theme curriculum is to develop and enhance children’s basic skills within Geography, History, Art and Design Technology. The theme curriculum will build on the children’s learning and experiences from early years and equip them with the essential knowledge and skills to thrive within Key Stage Two.

The theme curriculum has been carefully sequenced to ensure that the children receive several opportunities within Key Stage One to secure and embed the knowledge and skills which they are taught. Throughout their Key Stage One journey, the children will be provided with a sequence of work which gradually builds on their understanding and knowledge of the world they live in, while developing their creative and innovative thinking.

Within Year One, the children will build on their experiences from early years focusing on developing their knowledge of their own personal history, their local area, researching and asking questions and finally widening this experience to learning about people beyond living memory and significant British events. The children will be supported in learning about how art or products can be created for a purpose, continue to build on their gross and fine motor skills which they developed within early years and be encouraged to work independently.

Within Year Two, the children will be provided with a curriculum which allows them to revisit and consolidate their prior learning, while continuing to build on their knowledge and skills. The children will begin to develop a more rigorous understanding of their local area, wider surroundings and how this compares to other areas of the world. The children will continue to research people beyond living memory and significant events, while starting to consider how this impacts them today. These are important skills which will support the children in accessing their future learning in Key Stage Two where they will continue to build on their knowledge of history, how Britain has developed and changed over time and a deeper understanding about the structure of the world they live in.

A further key focus within the Key Stage One theme curriculum is vocabulary acquisition. The curriculum has been sequenced so that children are systematically introduced to new vocabulary, while having several opportunities throughout the year and key stage to revisit and use this vocabulary. It is important that the children become confident in understanding and using new theme vocabulary in order to comprehend and communicate the new learning which they experience.