

Understanding the World

Visitors/Visits: (*locate places using simple maps*)

- The local church
- The convent – The Sisters of Mercy (founders of our school. Review school changes)
- Dockhead Fire Station (firefighters protecting our community)
- Post office (how the postal system works and compares with digital communications)
- The River Thames & the famous landmarks along this

Science investigation: ‘floating and sinking’ (link to The Thames & water). Children to make predictions and observations as they explore and try out ideas.

History – How local area has changed. Special people in our families and special places, e.g. favourite family holiday destination.

ICT/Computing – graphing programs to create a local traffic survey, e.g. different types of transport & their frequency seen on a local walk. Google Earth and local, digital maps.

Communication, Language & Literacy

Role Play Area: Post office with sorting office (Red: Rotherhithe, Blue: Bermondsey & Purple: Peckham and initial letter codes)

Writing: Letters, Christmas cards (post box in class), Christmas gift lists

Instructions/directions: how to find various places within the school (set up trails).

Poetry – Snow/Christmas poems

Texts:

The First Christmas, The Jolly Postman & The Jolly Christmas Postman, People who look after us (non-fiction text), Little Red Riding Hood (visits her special person: Grandma, maps to Grandma’s home & computer program), The Train Ride, Guess how much I love you, Rosie’s Walk (directional/positional language). The River Thames (large non-fiction text). We’re going on a bear hunt.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Fireworks Night – What it is and how to keep safe (contact London Fire Brigade for a safety talk)

Personal safety when out and about – The Green Cross Code and crossing roads safely.

Discuss special people: Who is special to you at home? At school? In church? On the TV? What makes them special? Draw the special people in their family and give reasons why that person is special. Reflect on the fact everyone is special.

National Anti-bullying week in November. Read a story to introduce what bullying is. Discuss being a good friend to everybody and living as Jesus taught us.

* RE lessons also taught from Come & See scheme.

Our Locality & Special People

Physical Development

Use large construction materials to make some of the landmarks seen by the river, (place and balance wooden blocks, connect stickle bricks, etc).

Indoor PE – (Dance) move with confidence and increasing control and coordination in time to music. Practise dance for Nativity performance.

Fine motor skills: cutting, threading, using pincers to pick up and sort counters.

Water/sand tray: pouring, digging, covering, patting, etc.

Cooking – pour, stir, knead, roll when making Christmas biscuits.

Outdoor PE – practise skills of kicking & receiving equipment.

Mathematics

Number work – Number rhymes. Consolidate numbers to 20 and beyond, chanting, 1 to 1 counting and counting in groups (2, 5 and 10). Ordering numbers, number recognition and formation.

Problem solving – Combining amounts/Addition. Interpreting a number sentence, e.g. $3 + 2 = 5$, understanding the mathematical symbols, beginning to understand and use the vocabulary involved in addition. Subtraction – remove an amount, count how many are left.

Shape & space – making shape models/pictures of landmarks and homes (2D and 3D shapes).

Matching/sorting – match people to the building they work in.

Pattern – design own repeating patterns for Christmas wrap.

Measurement vocabulary – size (big, medium, small, tall, taller, tallest), weight (light, heavy, heavier, heaviest/lightest – role play post office parcels), positional and directional language.

Expressive Arts & Design

Create a firework picture: sequins, glitter, colour mixing, flicking luminous paint with toothbrushes, etc.

Painting with model vehicles – run toy cars through paint and make track picture and patterns.

Make a large 3D map or model of the local area – can be completed in several stages and can be added to over the half-term as children generate their own ideas of what to include and how to make the items (what materials?)

Children to make models of the various landmarks seen along the River Thames, e.g. a lego model of Tower Bridge or a junk model of The Tower of London using recycling.

Play dough models/sketching of special people.

Make Christmas cards & tags.

Collage/silhouettes of London landscape, local landmarks.

Sing songs: London Bridge is falling down...