

Learning Theme Title: Konichiwa Japan (Spring Term)

Overview

The focus of this theme will be Japan, a place of global significance. The geographical focus of this learning theme will involve developing the children's knowledge of the world, in particular Japan and its defining physical and human characteristics. The children will learn about many aspects of Japanese culture and compare it to their own. In **English** we watch a Japanese animation and re-tell part of the story, describing the Japanese landscape and buildings. At the end of this learning theme, when the children are very knowledgeable about Japan, they write a persuasive advert enticing people to visit this Asian country as a holiday destination. In **art** the children look at 'The Great Wave of Kanagawa' by Hokusai and the children create their own impressions using paint. In **cooking** the children prepare and assemble sushi dishes using basic cooking techniques. In **physical education** children look at video clips of Japanese dances. They take inspiration from these and use this to perform simple routines of their own. In **religious education** the children learn about Buddhism including the places of worship, meditation and festivals. In the Spring Term we visit the Japanese exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Here the children have the opportunity to look at traditional Samurai armour and swords, as well as a range of Kimono.

Content

- Locate Japan on a world map
- Identify some of Japan's major physical features, e.g. Mount Fuji
- Study the capital city Tokyo from different perspectives (compare aerial view to street view)
- Research Japanese culture, e.g. sport, food, homes, schools
- Find out about Buddhism
- Create their own impression of 'The Great Wave' by Hokusai
- Learn about primary, secondary and tertiary colours and how to mix colours to create different shades
- Explore Japanese dance and perform dances using simple movement patterns

Key areas of learning (knowledge and skills)

Geography

- Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- Devise geographical questions
- Develop understanding of geographical vocabulary relating to the key human and physical features of Japan and the United Kingdom
- Use maps, atlases and globes at a range of scales to identify the United Kingdom as well as the countries, continents and oceans of the world
- Use all 8 compass directions and locational and directional language, to describe the location of features
- Study aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features
- Express their own views about people, places and environments

Art

- Use drawing and painting techniques to develop and share their ideas and imagination
- Develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, line, shape and space
- Research and study Hokusai and other artists' impressions of 'The Great Wave'

