

Topic at Smallwood School

Smallwood School has a flexible attitude towards the curriculum enabling the teaching staff to create topics from topical, relevant national and international events. Where possible, subjects are combined together to create a thematic approach to the curriculum. There is usually a lead subject, for example a science, geography or history led theme. The themes are led by pupil questions and there is an emphasis on the children taking responsibility for some of the learning and curriculum coverage. The planning is largely text driven as this becomes a useful method of teaching in a way that the children can embed their learning across the curriculum

We also celebrate our international link with a whole school topic on Kenya to welcome our guests from our link school in Hyrax. This is now planned bi-annually to ensure a development of skills and understanding related to our international links and global issues.

Smallwood School also uses trips, visits and community members to enrich the learning in school. A whole school approach to the theme of 'Smallwood... Past, Present and Future', for example, has culminated in an Arts Council grant being used to record community memories and to record the event with ceramics, wood carving and a play. We also embrace the arts as a powerful learning tool and produce a play or musical performance every year alongside whole school events to celebrate key Christian festivals. The whole school also enjoys a trip to see a Christmas play every year.

The two year topic investigations cycle includes World War 2, Space, Castles, Aztecs, Victorians and the local environment. The whole school has a welly walk planned

once a term that enhances links to the community and the children's locality by providing first hand links, for example the year 3 class visited a local bee keeper during their topic on mini-beasts.

We aim to provide a rich and varied programme throughout their time and meet the challenges of mixed age classes through careful consideration to the key skills being taught alongside the direct curriculum content.