Geography Progression Map: 2025-26

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

What does Geography look like in EYFS?	**People, Culture and Communities:** • Know that they live in Berkhamsted, in England, UK • Have an understanding that the world is made up of lots of different countries and place • show interest in stories representing different countries and places around the world • Show interest in different occupations and ways of life • Know that weather gets hotter in summer and cold in winter and recognise how to stay safe in the sun by wearing a dun hat and sun cream • To know some vocabulary to describe bodies of water (eg pond, sea, lake, ocean), even if used incorrectly. • To know that a map is a type of picture of a place: features can be represented in a picture • To know and use vocabulary to describe characteristics in locations eg hill, field, building, road, old, even if not used correctly • Begin to recognise that people live in different environments and have different relationships with nature. • Begin to compare different environments and cultures. • Use maps, globes, and images to explore other countries. - Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class (ELG) - Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps. (ELG/ RELG) **Natural World** • Notice changes in the environment because it is Autumn • Talk about the weather and seasons - Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class (ELG) - Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter. (ELG)

	Year 1	Year 2	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Locational knowledge	Locating two of the world's seven continents on a world map. Locating two of the world's oceans (Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean) on a world map. Showing on a map which continent they live in. To know the name of two continents (Europe and Asia). To know that a continent is a group of countries.	Locating all the world's seven continents on a world map. Locating the world's five oceans on a world map. Showing on a map the oceans nearest the continent they live in. To be able to name the seven continents of the world. To be able to name the five oceans of the world. Locating the surrounding seas and oceans of the UK on a map of this area.	Locating some countries in Europe and North and South America using maps. Locating some major cities of the countries studied. Locating some key physical features in countries studied on a map including significant environmental regions. Locating some key human features in countries studied. Locating the world's most significant mountain ranges on a world map and identifying any patterns.	Locating more countries in Europe and North and South America using maps. Locating major cities of the countries studied. Locating key physical features in countries studied on a map. Locating key human features in countries studied. Identifying significant environmental regions on a map. Using maps to show the distribution of the world's climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts.

	To know that they live in the continent of Europe. To know that an ocean is a large body of water. To know the name of two of the world's oceans (Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean). Locating the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK) on a map of this area. Showing on a map which country they live in and locating its capital city. To know that the UK is short for 'United Kingdom'. To know that a country is a land or nation with its own government. To know that the United Kingdom is made up of four countries and their names. To know the name of the country they live in.	Locating the capital cities of the four countries of the UK on a map of this area. Identifying characteristics (both human and physical) of the four capital cities of the UK. Showing on a map the city, town or village where they live in relation to their capital city. To know that a sea is a body of water that is smaller than an ocean.* To know that there are four bodies of water surrounding the UK and to be able to name them. To name some characteristics of the four capital cities of the UK. To know the four capital cities of the UK. To know that a capital city is the city where a country's government is located.	Locating where the world's volcanoes are on a map and identifying the 'Ring of Fire'. Locating some of the world's most significant rivers and identifying any patterns. To know where North and South America are on a world map. To know the names of some countries and major cities in Europe and North and South America. To know the names of some of the world's most significant mountain ranges. To know the names of some of the world's most significant rivers. To know that mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes largely occur at plate boundaries. To know that climate zones are areas of the world with similar climates.* To know the world's different climate zones (equatorial, tropical, hot desert, temperate and polar).* To know that biomes are areas of world with similar climates, vegetation and animals.* To know the world's biomes. * To know vegetation belts are areas of the world which are home to similar plant species.* Locating some counties in the UK (local to your school). Locating some cities in the UK (local to your school). Identifying key physical and human characteristics of counties, cities and/or geographical regions in the UK. Beginning to locate the twelve geographical regions of the UK. Identifying how topographical features studied have changed over time using examples.	To know the name of many countries and major cities in Europe and North and South America. To know the location of key physical features in countries studied. To name and describe some of the world's vegetation belts (ice cape, tundra, coniferous forest, deciduous forest, evergreen forest, mixed forest, temperate grassland, tropical grassland, Mediterranean, desert scrub, desert, highland).* Locating many counties in the UK. Locating many cities in the UK. Confidently locating the twelve geographical regions of the UK. Identifying key physical and human characteristics of the geographical regions in the UK. Understanding how land-use has changed over time using examples. Explaining why a locality has changed over time, giving examples of both physical and human features. To know the name of many counties in the UK. To know the name of many cities in the UK. To confidently name the twelve geographical regions of the UK. To know that London and the South East regions have the largest population in the UK. Identifying the location of the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night) and explaining its significance. Using longitude and latitude when referencing location in an atlas or on a globe. To know the Prime/Greenwich Meridian is a line of longitude which goes through 0°and

			Describing how a locality has changed over time, giving examples of both physical and human features. To know the name of some counties in the UK (local to your school). To know the name of some cities in the UK (local to your school). To know the name of the county that they live in and their closest city. To begin to name the twelve geographical regions of the UK. To know the main types of land use.* To know some types of settlement.* Finding the position of the Equator and describing how this impacts our environmental regions. Finding lines of latitude and longitude on a globe and explaining why these are important. Identifying the position of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and their significance. Identifying the position of the Northern and Southern hemispheres and explaining how they shape our seasons. Identifying the position and significance of both the Arctic and Antarctic Circle. To know that countries near the Equator have less seasonal change than those near the poles. To know that the Equator is a line of latitude indicating the hottest places on Earth and splitting our globe into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. To know lines of longitude are invisible lines on the globe that determine how far east or west a location is from the Prime Meridian. To know lines of latitude are invisible lines on the globe that determine how far north or	determines the start of the world's time zones.

			south a location is from the Equator. To know the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are lines of latitude and mark the equatorial region; the countries with the hottest climates. To know the Northern and Southern hemisphere are 'halves' of the Earth, above and below our Equator and have alternate seasons to each other. To know the boundaries of the polar regions are marked by the invisible lines the Arctic and Antarctic circle. To know the patterns of daylight in the Arctic and Antarctic circle and the Equatorial regions.	
Place knowledge	Naming some key similarities between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Naming some key differences between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. To know that life elsewhere in the world is often different to ours. To know that life elsewhere in the world often has similarities to ours.	Describing and beginning to explain some key similarities between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Describing and beginning to explain some key differences between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Describing what physical features may occur in a hot place in comparison to a cold place. To know some similarities and differences between their local area and a contrasting non European country.	Describing and beginning to explain similarities between two regions studied. Describing and beginning to explain differences between two regions studied. Describing how and why humans have responded in different ways to their local environments. Discussing how climates have an impact on trade, land use and settlement. Explaining what measures humans have taken in order to adapt to survive in cold places. Describing and explaining how people who live in a contrasting physical area may have different lives to people in the UK. To know the negative effects of living near a volcano. To know the positive effects of living near a volcano. To know the negative effects an earthquake can have on a community. To know ways in which communities respond to earthquakes.	Describing and explaining similarities between two environmental regions studied. Describing and explaining differences between two environmental regions studied. Explaining how and why humans have responded in different ways to their local environments in two contrasting regions. Understanding how climates impact on trade, land use and settlement. Explaining how humans have used desert environments. Using maps to explore wider global trading routes. To know some similarities and differences between the UK and a European mountain region. To know why tourists visit mountain regions.

Human and Physical geography	Describing how the weather changes with each season in the UK. Describing the daily weather patterns in their locality. Confidently using the vocabulary 'season' and 'weather'. To know the four seasons of the UK. To know that 'weather' refers to the conditions outside at a particular time. To know that different parts of the UK often experience different weather. To know that a weather forecast is when someone tries to predict what the weather will be like in the near future. To know that weather conditions can be measured and recorded. Recognising some physical features in their locality. To know that physical features means any feature of an area that is on the Earth naturally. Recognising some human features in their locality. To know that human features means any feature of an area that was made or built by humans.	Locating some hot and cold areas of the world on a world map. Locating the Equator and North and South Poles on a world map. Locating hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South poles. To know that the Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. To know that, because it is the widest part of the Earth, the Equator is much closer to the sun than the North and South poles. To know that the North Pole is the northernmost point of the Earth and the South Pole is the southernmost point of the Earth. To know that different parts of the world experience different weather conditions and that these are often caused by the location of the place. Describing the key physical features of a coast using subject specific vocabulary. To know that coasts (and other physical features) change over time. To know some key physical features of the UK. Describing and understanding the differences between a city, town and village. Describing the key human features of a coastal town using subject specific vocabulary. To know that a sea is a body of water that is smaller than an ocean. To know that human features change over time. To know some key human features of the UK.	Mapping and labelling the seven biomes on a world map. Understanding some of the causes of climate change. Describing how physical features, such as mountains and rivers are formed, and why volcanoes and earthquakes occur. Describing where volcanoes, earthquakes and mountains are located globally. Describing and explaining how physical features such as rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes have had an impact upon the surrounding landscape and communities. Describing how humans use water in a variety of ways. To know that the water cycle is the processes and stores which move water around our Earth and to be able to name these. To know the courses and key features of a river. To know the different types of mountains and volcanoes and how they are formed. To know that an earthquake is the intense shaking of the ground. To know that a biome is a region of the globe sharing a similar climate, landscape, vegetation and wildlife.* To know the world's biomes.* To know that the hottest biomes are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. To know that climate zones are areas of the world with similar climates.* To know the world's different climate zones.* To know that climates can influence the foods able to grow. Describing and understanding types of settlement and land use. Explaining why a settlement and community has grown in a particular location.	Describing and understanding the key aspects of the six biomes. Describing and understanding the key aspects of the six climate zones. Understanding some of the impacts and causes of climate change. Describing and understanding the key aspects and distribution of the vegetation belts in relation to the six biomes, climate and weather. Giving examples of alternative viewpoints and solutions regarding an environmental issue and explaining its links to climate change. To know vegetation belts are areas of the world that are home to similar plant species.* To name and describe some of the world's vegetation belts. To know why the ocean is important. Describing and understanding economic activity including trade links. Suggesting reasons why the global population has grown significantly in the last 70 years. Describing the 'push' and 'pull' factors that people may consider when migrating. Understanding the distribution of natural resources both globally and within a specific region or country studied. Recognising geographical issues affecting people in different places and environments. Describing and explaining how humans can impact the environment both positively and negatively, using examples. To know the global population has grown significantly since the 1950s. To know which factors are considered before people build settlements. To know migration is the movement of people from one country to another.

			Explaining why different locations have different human features. Explaining why people might prefer to live in an urban or rural place. Describing how humans can impact the environment both positively and negatively, using examples. To know the main types of land use.* To know the different types of settlement.* To know water is used by humans in a variety of ways. To know an urban place is somewhere near a town or city. To know a rural place is somewhere near the countryside. To know that a natural resource is something that people can use which comes from the natural environment. To know the threats to the rainforest both on a local and global scale. To know that fair trading is the process of ensuring workers are paid a fair price, have safe working conditions and are treated with respect and equality. To know the UK grows food locally and imports food from other countries.	To know that natural resources can be used to make energy. To know some positive impacts of humans on the environment. To know some negative impacts of humans on the environment.
Geography skills and fieldwork	Using an atlas to locate the UK. Using a map of the UK to locate the four countries. Beginning to use an atlas to locate the four capital cities of the UK. Using a world map and globe to locate two of the world's seven continents (Europe and Asia). Using an atlas to locate the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Using directional language to describe the location of objects in the classroom and	Recognising why maps need a title. Using an atlas to locate the four capital cities of the UK. Using a world map, globe and atlas to locate all the world's seven continents. Using a world map, globe and atlas to locate the world's five oceans. Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the location of features on a map.	Beginning to use maps at more than one scale. Using atlases, maps, globes, satellite images and beginning to use digital mapping to locate countries studied. Using atlases, maps, globes and beginning to use digital mapping to recognise and describe physical features and human features in countries studied. Using the scale bar on a map to estimate distances. Finding countries and features of countries in	Confidently using and understanding maps at more than one scale. Using atlases, maps, globes and digital mapping to locate countries studied. Using atlases, maps, globes and digital mapping to describe and explain physical and human features in countries studied. Identifying, analysing and asking questions about distributions and relationships between features using maps (e.g settlement distribution).

	playground. Using directional language to describe features on a map in relation to other features (real or imaginary). Responding to instructions using directional language to follow routes. Beginning to use the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the location of features on a map. Recognising local landmarks on aerial photographs. Recognising basic human features on aerial photographs. Recognising basic physical features on aerial photographs. Drawing freehand maps (of real or imaginary places) using simple pictures or symbols. Drawing a simple sketch map of the classroom and playground using simple pictures, colours or symbols to represent features. Adding labels to sketch maps. Using simple picture maps and plans to move around the school. To know that an aerial photograph is a photograph taken from the air above. To know that atlases give information about the world and that a map tells us information about a place. To know that a map is a picture of a place, usually drawn from above. To know that symbols are often used on maps to represent features. To know simple directional language (e.g near, far, up, down, left, right, forwards, backwards). To know what a sketch map is.	Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the route on a map. Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to plan a route in the playground or school grounds. Using a map to follow a prepared route. Recognising landmarks of a city studied on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Recognising human features on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Recognising physical features on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Drawing a map and using class agreed symbols to make a simple key. Drawing a simple sketch map of the playground or school grounds using symbols to represent human and physical features. Finding a given OS symbol on a map with support. Beginning to draw objects to scale (e.g show the school playground is smaller than the school or school field). Using an aerial photograph to draw a simple sketch map using basic symbols for a key. To know that a globe is a spherical model of the Earth. To begin to recognise world maps as a flattened globe. To know that a compass is an instrument we can use to find which direction is north. To know which direction is N, S, E, W on a map. To know that maps need a title and purpose. To know that maps need a key to explain what the symbols and colours represent. To know that an interview can be a way to find out people's views about their area.	an atlas using contents and index. Zooming in and out of a digital map. Beginning to use the key on an OS map to name and recognise key physical and human features in regions studied. Accurately using 4-figure grid references to locate features on a map in regions studied. Beginning to locate features using the 8 points of a compass. Using a simple key on their own map to show an example of both physical and human features. Following a route on a map with some accuracy. Saying which directions are N, S, E, W on an OS map. Making and using a simple route on a map. Labelling some features on an aerial photograph and then locating these on an OS map of the same locality and scale in regions studied. To understand that a scale shows how much smaller a map is compared to real life. To recognise world maps as a flattened globe. To know that an OS (Ordnance survey) map is used for personal use and organisations use it for housing projects, planning the natural environment and public transport and for security purposes. To know that an OS map shows human and physical features as symbols. To know that grid references help us locate a particular square on a map. To know the eight points of a compass are north, south, east, west, north-east, south-east, north-west, south-west. To know the main types of land use (agricultural, residential, recreational,	Using the scale bar on a map to calculate distances. Recognising an increasing range of Ordnance Survey symbols on maps and locating features using six-figure grid references. Recognising the difference between Ordnance Survey and other maps and when it is most appropriate to use each. Beginning to use thematic maps to recognise and describe human and physical features studied. Using models and maps to talk about contours and slopes. Selecting a map for a specific purpose. Confidently using the key on an OS map to name and recognise key physical and human features in regions studied. Accurately using 4 and 6-figure Grid References to locate features on a map in regions studied. Confidently locating features using the 8 points of a compass. Following a short pre-prepared route on an OS map. Identifying the 8 compass points on an OS map. Planning a journey to another part of the world using six figure grid references and the eight points of a compass. To know that contours on a map show height and slope. To know that qualitative data involves qualities, characteristics and is largely opinion based and subjective.* To know that GIS is a digital system that creates and manages maps, used to support analysis for enquiries. To know that a pie chart can represent a fraction or percentage of a whole set of data. To know a line graph can represent variables over time.

		To know that a tally chart is a way of collecting data quickly. To know that a pictogram is a chart that uses pictures to show data.	commercial, industrial and transportation) To know an enquiry-based question has an open-ended answer found by research. To know how to use various simple sampling techniques. To know what a questionnaire and an interview are. To know that quantitative data involves numerical facts and figures and is often objective. To know that an annotated drawing or sketch map is hand drawn and gives a rough idea of features of an area without having to be completely accurate. To know a Likert scale is used to record people's feelings and attitudes. To know that qualitative data involves opinions, thoughts and feelings and is often subjective. To know what a bar chart, pictogram and table are and when to use which one best to represent data.	To be aware of some issues in the local area. To know what a range of data collection methods look like. To know how to use a range of data collection methods.