

# Curriculum Overview

## Portway Primary School

### Year 3

Term – Autumn 1

#### Science

In Science we use investigations to deepen our understanding of Science and how the world works. Each half term we have a concluding investigation question that we try to solve based on what we have learnt during the half term. Our question this term is:

#### **Can we use the movement of the sun to tell the time?**

In order to answer this question they will be learning to:

- recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light.
- notice that light is reflected from surfaces.
- recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked.
- find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change
- Take accurate measurements using standard units.
- Draw, with help, a simple conclusion based on evidence from an enquiry or observation.

### This term we will be learning about... **Coasts**



On Wednesday 17/09/2025, We will be going to Leigh-on-sea to identify physical features such as coasts.  
Please check your email for a link to the form regarding this trip.

#### Geography

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our fact organiser for the year 3 Geography topic about Eastern Explorers. It shows, in detail, the questions the children will be investigating and learning about. There are links to helpful websites about the topic which you can use to support your child's learning about the topic. There is also a list of the key vocabulary your children should be able to use to explain their thinking.  
We hope you find this helpful.

#### PSHE

This half term, our big idea for PSHE is 'My Emotions'. We will explore aspects and achievements of our life which gives a person their worth in their own eyes and in the eyes of others. We will look at ways to share accomplishments that leave people feeling positive towards themselves and others.

Children will understand that sometimes things don't go as planned and can lead people to doubt themselves. Despite this people should make responsible choices and ask for help from others if needed. Asking for help is a sign of responsibility and strength not weakness.

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### English

Year 3 will be diving into a range of books in order to inspire them in English this term. The three key texts are "Flotsam" by David Wiesner, "The Enormous Crocodile" by Roald Dahl, "Meerkat Mail" by Emily Gravett and "Goldilocks on CCTV" by John Agard.

In Reading, Year 3 will be thinking about the difference between different types of texts, how to predict what might happen next in a story and how to find out more about texts by asking appropriate questions. Following the same texts in Writing, the children will have the opportunity to write a character description, a non-chronological report and even a poem! To support them on this learning journey, the children will learn about ambitious vocabulary, using the correct tense and the punctuation used to make their writing exciting. We can't wait to see what they create!

### RE

In year 3 pupils will be taught to analyse 2 different stories that challenge people from different religions. In this unit, pupils will explore the power of stories and sayings to challenge people to think about the way they lead their lives. In this context, a number of stories and sayings which Jesus and The Buddha told will be explored to see how they challenged people at the time and can still do today.

### Mathematics

**In Maths, children will be starting their Year 3 Maths learning journey by looking closely at numbers.**

- Year 3 Maths will focus on Place Value.
- Children will be learning to count in 100s and representing numbers to 1000.
- They are going to compare and order numbers to a 1000 reading and writing them in digits and words.

### Computing

In this unit, pupils will be learning about Computing systems and networks - Connecting Computers. Pupils will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. They will also compare digital and non-digital devices. They will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches.

## You might like to join in with our learning at home by:

### Reading

- **Read everyday and record this in the reading record - try a range of text types.**

### Watching




<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/countries/facts-about-scotland/>  
<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

### Doing

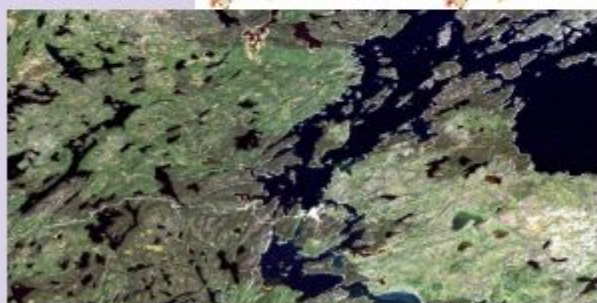
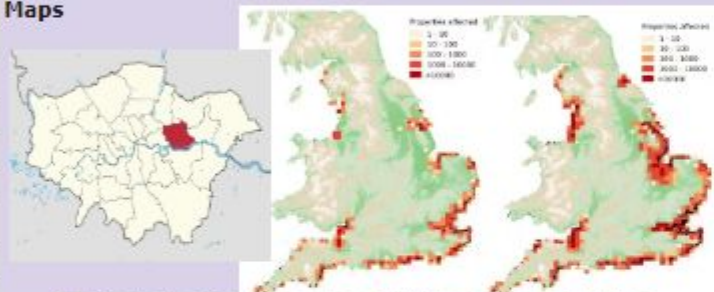
- **Why not try to make a map of Plaistow and draw on your route to school**
- **Practice your times table.**



# Year 3- Geography. Final Enquiry: Should the government spend money on coastal erosion protection in Southend?

Theme	Learning Goal	Key Questions to be asked	Answers
	Coasts have a unique geography.	What do maps tell us about coasts?	You can use a map to work out what a place looks like. A coast is where the sea meets the land.
		What does a coast look like?	Coasts can look very different from each other but they have similar features.
		What do people do at the coast?	The way people use coasts depends on what physical features they have. This has changed over time.
	Our physical environment is constantly changing through processes such as erosion.	How was our coast formed?	Erosion is the geological process in which materials are worn away and transported by natural forces.
		What impact does erosion have on human lives?	Erosion has had a negative impact on humans such as when houses fall down cliffs.
		How do humans deal with erosion?	Humans use engineering strategies to deal with erosion and prevent damage to human and physical features.
	Humans change their physical environment to meet their needs and desires.	Where are the physical features in Plaistow?	Plaistow is a city so most of the physical features have been built over or changed to accommodate people.
		Why have people developed Plaistow?	Plaistow has been developed due to its proximity to the centre of London and to accommodate population growth.
		Why is Southend different from Plaistow?	Humans have developed Southend differently from Plaistow due to its differing location and physical features.

## Maps



## Useful websites

<a href="https://www.climate-zone.com/">https://www.climate-zone.com/</a>
<a href="https://www.worldatlas.com/">https://www.worldatlas.com/</a>
<a href="https://www.mapsofindia.com/world-map/">https://www.mapsofindia.com/world-map/</a>
<a href="https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com">https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com</a>
<a href="https://iNews.co.uk/news/england-coastline-vanishing-climate-change-erosion-pictures-2321271">https://iNews.co.uk/news/england-coastline-vanishing-climate-change-erosion-pictures-2321271</a>

Physical features		Key Vocabulary	
coasts	The part of the land adjoining or near the sea. These can be cliffs or beaches.	business	stack
beach	A strip of land covered with sand, shingle, or small stones at the edge of a body of water	North East	cliff
peninsula	A piece of land almost surrounded by water or projecting out into water.	South East	beach
cliff	A steep rock face, especially at the edge of the sea	South West	peninsula
erosion	The gradual destruction or diminution of something, through natural forces such as wind and rain.	North West	
		point	data collection
		present	compare
		coast	predict
		arch	guess
		erosion	similar
		cave	different
Human features		Mapping	
human features	Things made or built by humans like cities, houses, roads, bridges, ports, farms. etc	Use large scale maps and grids.	
		Give directions up to 8 cardinal compass points.	
		Use 2 figure grid references with a key and OS map.	
		Make a map with a key.	
pier	A platform on pillars projecting from the shore into the sea, typically incorporating entertainment arcades and places to eat.	Enquiry / Field work	
population	The term typically used to refer to the number of people in a single area.	Ask questions about how things worked using specific vocabulary.	
		Suggest sources to answer questions asked by the teacher.	
city	A permanent and densely settled place with administratively defined boundaries whose members work primarily on non-agricultural tasks.	Conduct own research with support.	
		Discuss different ways of presenting information for different purposes, accurately using subject specific vocabulary.	