

Outcomes:

To learn and share appreciation for other cultures including their:

- Language
- History



- Geography
- Cuisine
- Art
- Religious beliefs

Today all the children’s learning was based around the culture of Japan. They learnt all about schools, writing, geography, cuisine, art and religion of the country, as well as experiencing some of the foods that are eaten in Japan.

Schools and the Japanese Writing system

The children started by learning all about the school system in Japan – looking at similarities and differences between our schools and theirs. After that we looked at the very complicated writing system – there are three different alphabets in Japan. After looking at the differences the children had a go at replicating the Kanji system (an ancient system with over 2000 symbols). They then looked at the modern alphabet called Hiragana. The children produced some wonderful work.



Quotes:

“Japanese language is so hard! I couldn’t even spell my name!”
-CD

“I think the artist is delusional!”
-BC

“We LOVED the Japanese curry! We even asked Kerry to put curry on the lunch menu!”
-Puffins

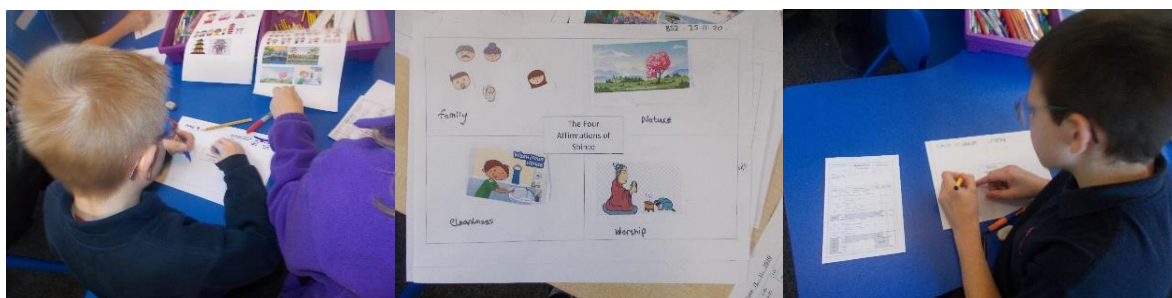
All about Japan – Geography and landmarks.

The children learnt where Japan was in the world, they looked at maps of the oceans and seas before looking closely at a map of Japan. They then found the capital city and studied the climate and differing terrains of the country. Using lots of photos of landmarks and cultural highlights they finished the session with a treasure hunt showing all the interesting facts they had learnt.



Japanese Religion

In the religion session, the children were given a brief overview of the Shinto religion before they learnt about the four affirmations. These are most important things to consider in life; tradition and family, love of nature, physical cleanliness and worship. After discussions about the importance of all of these the children created posters to show their learning.



Japanese Cuisine

During this session pupils explored different foods that are commonly eaten in Japan. They also looked at images of Japanese restaurants and explored differences between these and restaurants in the UK. Pupils then designed their own Bento box by drawing and labelling different Japanese foods that they might like to try. To finish the session, pupils and staff were able to make and taste some sushi made with tuna and cucumber. They were also invited to add some soy sauce or wasabi paste. This had very mixed reactions! Overall, it was fantastic to hear the discussions between pupils about the different foods and see some pupils trying new things.



Japanese Art

In this session the children learnt all about Yayoi Kusama, a famous Japanese artist whose iconic polka dots art was inspired by a hallucination she experienced while looking at a tablecloth as a child. She is now the world's best-selling female artist in the world. The children worked collaboratively to create a giant piece of artwork using the Yayoi technique. The results were stunning and each child produced some work and we now have a huge display in one of the corridors.

