



**ST. DUNSTAN'S**



**Year 4 Rationale**  
**Summer 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term**  
**River Journeys**



With the overarching theme of environmental responsibility, the children will be supported to develop an understanding of the importance of rivers and the human impact of different uses of rivers around the world. This learning should enable children to empathise with communities living in different conditions, including people living near the Amazon River, so that they feel more connected to environmental challenges across the globe.

Our learning will build on the children's experiences from their recent river study at Sayers Croft. Developing their mapping skills, they will use their knowledge of rivers to consider the relationship between physical geography and human geography. With a focus on the Amazon River, the children will explore how the river affects communities who live and work in these regions. They will also make connections with their science learning on living things and their habitats, including water habitats, amongst others, in their investigations.

We will be using literature to help us understand what rivers mean to different people. Through the poem of 'The River' by Valerie Bloom, the children will encounter metaphorical imagery that will inspire them to think creatively about how rivers can be perceived differently. This will further enhance their understanding of the human impact associated with rivers, as well as providing opportunities to develop speaking, reading and writing skills.