

Year Reception_Understanding the World: The Natural World: curriculum overview 2026-2027

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Understanding the World: The Natural World:	Securing range 5 and working within range 6 - Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change in nature - Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside - Talks about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another	Securing range 6, beginning ELG - Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. - Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. - Makes observations of animals and plants and explains why some things occur, and talks about changes	ELG - Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. - 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. - Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.
Vocabulary:	Ourselves, body, knees, shin, elbows, wrists etc, senses, smell, sight, hear, touch, taste, healthy, unhealthy, exercise Similarities, differences Seasons, autumn, leaves, hibernation, nocturnal, Spinney, trees. Prediction	Maps, world, habitat, home. Winter, cold, freezing, ice, snow, rain, hail, sleet. Similarities, differences	seed, tree, leaf, stem, petal, flower root, soil. Minibeast, insect, bugs, garden, pond, woods, underground, life cycle. Similarities, differences
Possible topics/cross curricular links	Ourselves – Parts of the body, keeping healthy Autumn – Links to seasons and hibernation British woodland creatures – Links to nocturnal, using the Spinney and garden areas to look for animals	Polar regions – comparing Arctic and Antarctic areas to where we live, looking at animals that live there and how they are suited. The season of winter. Dinosaurs – differences and similarities, types and what they ate.	Plants and growing – Using our own environments. Minibeasts - Using our own environments. Animals from other countries i.e. African Animals – Comparison work around how animals are suited to

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	Supertato – Use of vegetables and experiments.	Easter – Spring time and comparing seasons.	their habitats and compare and build on Polar Region knowledge.
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