Understanding the World – Long Term Plan 2026-2027 Cycle 1

Our Understanding the World curriculum is designed to reflect how our pupils learn best. We prioritise depth, repetition and accessibility so that learning is meaningful rather than overwhelming. Each half term has a clear focus, allowing pupils time to explore concepts thoroughly and build familiarity through repeated experiences. Learning remains manageable, purposeful and responsive to individual need, while still building a broad and coherent understanding of the world

KS1 Seekers	Thematic topic	UTW Focus	What pupils learn	Birth to 5 Matters Link	ELG Link
Autumn 1 8 weeks	Marvellous Me – What I Like?	People, Culture & Communities: Myself and My Family	Recognise self and important people; explore likes, interests and familiar objects.	Notices and explores people who are familiar; shows interest in different occupations and ways of life.	Past and Present / People, Culture and Communities
Autumn 2 7 weeks	Party Time!	People, Culture & Communities: Celebrations and Special Events	Explore celebrations, special occasions and shared experiences.	Begins to make sense of own life-story and family traditions.	People, Culture and Communities
Spring 1 6 weeks	Messy Explorers	Science: Everyday Materials and Sensory Exploration	Investigate materials through sensory exploration and messy play.	Explores the natural world through sensory investigation.	The Natural World
Spring 2 5 weeks	Creepy Crawlies	Science: Living Things and Habitats	Explore insects, animals and their environments.	Explores living things and natural processes.	The Natural World
Summer 1 7 weeks	Muck, Mess and Mixtures	Science: Materials and Simple Changes	Experiment with mixing and changing materials.	Uses senses to investigate and compare materials.	The Natural World
Summer 2 7 weeks	Splash and Play	Science: Water Exploration, Floating and Sinking	Investigate water through exploration and play.	Observes changes and investigates the world around them.	The Natural World
KS1 Explorers	**Thematic topic**	**UTW Focus**	**What pupils learn**	**Birth to 5 Matters Link**	**ELG Link**

Autumn 1 8 weeks	This Is Me! – My Likes, Choices and Favourite Things	Technology: Using Digital Devices for Communication and Choice Making	Use simple digital devices to communicate preferences.	Shows interest in technological toys and equipment.	Creating with Materials / Technology
Autumn 2 7 weeks	Stories of Celebration	Geography: Familiar Places and Our Environment	Explore familiar places and simple directions.	Develops understanding of familiar environments.	People, Culture and Communities
Spring 1 6 weeks	Curious Creators	Technology: Digital Exploration and Creation	Use technology to create and explore.	Selects and uses technology for a purpose.	Creating with Materials / Technology
Spring 2 5 weeks	Little Creatures, Big Discoveries	Science: Living Things and Habitats	Observe living things and materials.	Explores and talks about the natural world.	The Natural World
Summer 1 7 weeks	Mystery Materials	Science: Everyday Materials and Their Properties	Identify and explore material properties.	Investigates objects and materials.	The Natural World
Summer 2 7 weeks	Water Wonders	Geography: Water in Our Environment	Explore water in different environments.	Understands routes and familiar places.	People, Culture and Communities

KS2 Seekers	Thematic topic	UTW Focus	What pupils learn	Birth to 5 Matters	ELG
Autumn 1 8 weeks	Magic and Wonder	History: Changes Within Living Memory; Geography: Local Fieldwork	Compare life today with the 1960s and explore the local area using maps and fieldwork. NC: changes within living memory; local fieldwork.	Comments on familiar people, places and changes over time.	Past and Present; People Culture and Communities
Autumn 2 7 weeks	Twinkle, Twinkle!	History: Significant Individuals	Learn about significant people and use sources such as photographs and artefacts. NC: significant individuals.	Develops understanding of people and communities.	Past and Present

Spring 1 6 weeks	Make Your Mark!	History: Victorian Britain; Geography: UK Countries and Capitals	Compare Victorian life with today and locate UK countries and capitals.	Explores similarities and differences between people and places.	Past and Present; People Culture and Communities
Spring 2 5 weeks	Pets and Wild Animals	History: Continuity and Change	Investigate schools, homes and communities over time using evidence.	Begins to understand the past through stories and artefacts.	Past and Present
Summer 1 7 weeks	Stack, Build, Create	History: Georgian Britain	Explore homes, work and society during the Georgian period.	Talks about the lives of people around them.	Past and Present
Summer 2 7 weeks	Oh We Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside!	Geography: UK and Australia Place Study	Compare climate, culture, wildlife and features of the UK and Australia.	Explores the wider world through maps, stories and images.	People Culture and Communities; The Natural World

KS2 Explorers	Thematic topic	UTW Focus	What pupils learn	Birth to 5 Matters	ELG
Autumn 1 8 weeks	Magical Adventures	ICT: Using Simple Digital Programmes	Explore digital programmes and creative technology.	Shows interest in technological toys and equipment.	Creating with Materials
Autumn 2 7 weeks	Reach for the Stars	Science: Human Body and Animals	Identify body parts and compare animals.	Explores the natural world and living things.	The Natural World
Spring 1 6 weeks	Patterns and Prints	Geography: Our Local Environment	Explore familiar environments and local features.	Comments on familiar places and routes.	People Culture and Communities
Spring 2 5 weeks	Paws and Claws	Science: Animals and Their Characteristics	Compare and classify animals.	Talks about differences between animals.	The Natural World

Summer 1 7 weeks	Young Architects	ICT: Digital Design and Creation	Use digital tools purposefully to create and design.	Uses technology for a particular purpose.	Creating with Materials
Summer 2 7 weeks	Seaside Adventures	Geography: Comparing Environments	Compare local and seaside environments.	Recognises similarities and differences between places.	People Culture and Communities

KS2 Connectors	Thematic topic	Humanities Focus: History Geography Science	What pupils learn	ELG	*NC1 link*
Autumn 1 8 weeks	All About Me Then and Now & Local Fieldwork	• History: Changes Within Living Memory • Geography: Local Fieldwork	• Compare life today with life in the 1960s. • Explore changes in homes, schools, clothing and toys. • Investigate the local area through maps, photographs and fieldwork. • Begin using evidence to identify similarities and differences between past and present.	Past and Present People, Culture and Communities	National Curriculum Link: Changes within living memory; use simple fieldwork and observational skills.
Autumn 2 7 weeks	Local Heroes	• History: Significant Individuals	• Learn about significant people from the local area and wider society. • Use photographs, artefacts and stories as historical sources. • Understand how individuals influence communities.	Past and Present	National Curriculum Link: Lives of significant individuals who have contributed to national and international achievements
Spring 1 6 weeks	Victorian Britain & The United Kingdom	• History: Victorian Britain • Geography: UK Countries and Capitals	• Compare Victorian life with life today. • Explore Victorian homes, schools and communities. • Locate England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. • Identify capitals and key human and physical features.	Past and Present People, Culture and Communities	National Curriculum Links: Events beyond living memory; locational knowledge of the UK.
Spring 2 5 weeks	Victorian Schools and Communities	• History: Continuity and Change	• Compare Victorian and modern schools. • Investigate how communities have changed over time. • Use evidence to make simple historical comparisons.	Past and Present	National Curriculum Link: Historical enquiry and interpretation

Summer 1 7 weeks	Georgian Britain	• History: Georgian Britain	• Explore homes, jobs and communities during the Georgian period. • Compare experiences of rich and poor people. • Develop understanding of change over time.	Past and Present	National Curriculum Link: Events beyond living memory that shape national life.
Summer 2 7 weeks	UK and Australia Comparison	• Geography: UK and Australia Place Study	• Compare climate, landmarks, wildlife and cultures. • Identify similarities and differences between the UK and Australia. • Use maps and photographs to investigate places.	People, Culture and Communities The Natural World	National Curriculum Link: Compare a region of the UK with a contrasting locality.