

Understanding the World

What do we do use the Federation?

- Planned directed learning as well as learning in the environment
- Look at seasons and how the environment changes and explore the weather- themes
- Provide interesting natural environments for children to explore freely outdoors.
- Make collections of natural materials to investigate and talk about
- Spend time with children talking about photos, memories
- Invite different people to visit from a range of occupations
- Provide mechanical equipment for children to play with and investigate
- Show and explain the concepts of growth, change and decay with natural materials. Plant seeds, garden, observe over time. Themes.
- Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration. Encourage children to use it in their discussions, as they care for living things.
- Investigate how animals and plants grow and learn about the life cycle of a chick, frog, ladybird and butterfly.
- Encourage children to refer to books, wall displays and online resources
- Read high quality fiction and non fiction books to support learning
- Draw children's attention to forces e.g. how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat under it, how they can stretch elastic, snap a twig, but can't bend a metal rod, magnetic attraction and repulsion
- Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration, and encourage children to use it. Talk about natural and man-made objects.
- Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another e.g. cooking – combining different ingredients, and then cooling or heating (cooking) them, melting – leave ice cubes out in the sun, see what happens when you shake salt onto them
- Explore how different materials sink and float.
- Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others. Investigate shadows.
- Teach specific history themed topics alongside the year 1 children

Understanding the World (History/Science)

ELG: Past and Present

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society;
- Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.

ELG: The Natural World

Children at the expected level of development will:

- 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.

Understanding the World

- As the children are in a mixed age class, we teach their older peers Geography & RE over the year. Therefore, the EYFS children are involved in some of these themes and topics.
- We also follow the children's interests in these areas and provide a variety of real life objects, videos, photographs and where possible visits/visitors. We ensure that resources reflect the diversity of life in modern Britain.
- Encourage children to talk about the differences they notice between people, whilst also drawing their attention to similarities between different families and communities
- Celebrate and value cultural, religious and community events and experiences- Learn about different celebrations around the world such as Diwali (Hindu), Bonfire Night, Luna New Year (Chinese), Mother's Day, St David's Day, World Book Day, Holi (Festival of Colour) Hindu, Easter, Hanukkah (Jewish), Remembrance Day
- Teach children that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.
- Learn about the community and the school grounds- use simple maps
- Learn about London- a city and compare it with the village.
- Take part in daily assemblies.
- Learn about what Christians believe and listen to Christian stories.
- Listen to Muslim stories and compare it to the Christian stories.
- Learn about other countries and regions in our themes.

What do we use in the Federation?

Understanding the World (Geography/Religion)

ELG: People, Culture and Communities

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps;
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps