

Example Medium Term Planning Reception

This medium term plan is designed to prepare children for the Core Knowledge curriculum in Year 1. Teachers are encouraged to tailor the experiences, activities and opportunities to the needs of their class.

Understanding the World

Autumn A - Understanding the World: All about me; The Senses and Materials; Seasons		
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes
1. To know my way around the classroom and	Tour of school grounds	Ch feel comfortable and safe moving around
the key places in the school	Meeting key adults	the building
	Finding the dining hall	Ch are aware who the key adults are and who
Vocabulary: classroom, playground, dining		they can ask for help
hall, office		
2. To describe what I look like; to tell others	Use mirrors to observe facial features and	Ch can describe their facial features
my name; to describe my likes/dislikes; to	describe to a friend	Ch can introduce themselves and say their
describe my family; to know the sequence of	Introduce self and say name clearly	own name, and some of their friends' names,
the human life cycle	Describing who is in my family	clearly
	Sequencing cards activity of human life cycle	Ch can describe their family
Vocabulary: family, baby, toddler, child,		Ch can sequence pictures of people at
teenager, adult, elderly person		different ages
3. To describe where I'm from/where I live; to	Draw map of route to school	Ch can describe and draw a representation of
map my route to school, to use maps to	Draw map of classroom or school grounds	their journey to school, or of the school site
locate places of relevance to me	Locate key places on maps: local area.	Ch can locate places that are important to
		them on maps
Vocabulary: route, journey, map		

4. To know the names of my body parts; to	Labelling body parts on a diagram	Ch can name the different parts of their body
name the five senses; to understand what I	Know the five senses	Ch can name the five senses
use my sight and hearing for	Observing a diagram of an eye and looking in	Ch can describe what their hearing and sight
	a mirror at own eyes	are and why they are useful
Vocabulary: names of senses, names of body	Drawing an eye in detail: pupil, iris eye lids,	
parts	eye lashes	
	Making and identifying different sounds	
5. To name the five senses; to know what I	Hand and feet printing	Ch can name the five senses
use smell, touch and taste for	Fruit smell and taste test (check for allergies)	Ch can use their senses to touch, taste and
	Feely bag with textures/objects touch test	smell and use descriptive language
Vocabulary: names of senses, names of body		
6. To know the names and order of the four	Seasons poems	Ch can name the four seasons and describe
seasons; to investigate leaves with a	Cycle of the seasons diagram for display	their key features
magnifying glass	Leaf investigation with magnifying glasses	Ch know how to use a magnifying glass and
	Create a tree with leaves collected on the	are keen to try it on other objects
Vocabulary: weather, seasons, investigate,	walk to school or from the playground	
magnifying glass		
7. To deliver a weather report	Label map of UK	Ch can speak in full sentences to describe the
	Create weather symbols	weather in an area of the UK
Vocabulary: weather seasons, maps, symbols	Make films of ch giving weather reports in the	Ch can film one another giving a weather
	UK	report
	Museum visit	

Autumn B - Understanding the World: The coldest places on earth; Light and dark		
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes
1. To understand the climate of the North and	Globe and map work	Ch know the North and South Poles are cold
South Poles	Role play Arctic explorers	Ch can locate the North and South Poles on a

	Images of the Poles	globe
Vocabulary: igloo, iceberg, snowflake, glacier, snow, ice, freezing, melting, water, cold, arctic	Investigate how to turn water into ice	Ch can describe the geographical features of the North and South Poles
2. To know which animals live in the North Pole and which animals live in the South Pole	Investigate melting ice (cubes and crushed) Role play with small arctic animals Match pictures of the animal to its home on	Ch will be able to name the animals that live n each location Ch will be able to give reasons as to why
Vocabulary: polar bear, penguin, seal, walrus, arctic hare, husky	the world map (include other animals like lions, tigers) Polar bear, polar bear, what do you see?	these animals live in arctic conditions eg thick fur, blubber
3. To know what an explorer is and to know Shackleton explored Antarctica	Make a list of what you need to take on your adventure to Antarctica Role play with binoculars, maps, compass,	Ch will understand that explorers discover new places Ch will know that Shackleton went to
Vocabulary: explore, Shackleton, Endurance, binoculars, compass, navigation, map, sledge, ship, planning and preparation	rucksack, hat etc	Antarctica on a ship called the Endurance Ch will know that we use tools to help us navigate eg compass, map
4. To know that we get light from the sun	Role play in a tent with torches Explore reflective materials	Ch will know that the sun gives us light Ch will know that night time is dark
Vocabulary: light, dark, sun, planet, rays, night and day, reflection, electricity, fire	Brainstorm natural and artificial sources of light Day and night collages with reflective, shiny paper Fire safety talk	Ch will know that we also get light from electricity and fire
5. To explore shadows	Shadow puppets and performances Role play in a tent with torches Drawing our silhouettes	Ch will know that a shadow is made when an object moves in front of a light source
6. To understand that some animals are	Make mobile bouncy bats, include features	Ch will be able to name nocturnal animals and

nocturnal	such as large ears to help them hear BBC videos on nocturnal animals	explain that they hunt and explore at night
Vocabulary: nocturnal, owl, bat, fox, badger, mole, cats, hedgehogs, hamsters	BBC videos off floctuffial affillials	
7. To understand how light is used in special	Clay divas	Ch will know that light is important in a
celebrations	Make christingles	variety of celebrations
	Stained glass window of candles (black paper	
Vocabulary: Advent, Chanukah, Diwali,	and tissue paper)	
Christingle, candles, birthday cakes		

Spring A - Understanding the World: England's Leaders; Our Environment		
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes
1. To understand the role of kings and queens	Role play kings and queens	Ch will know that England has had kings and
in the past and present	Look at symbols of monarchy in photographs	queens for many years
	and portraits of kings and queens	Ch will know that Queen Elizabeth II is our
Vocabulary: king, queen, Buckingham Palace,	Make crowns	current queen and she resides in Buckingham
rule, reign, country, decision, crown, throne,	Sketches of Buckingham Palace	Palace
coronation, prince, princess	Non-fiction books of kings and queens	Ch will be able to describe the symbols of
		monarchy (throne, crown etc)
2. To understand the role of the Prime	Imagine you were the PM	Ch will know that the PM makes decisions for
Minister	Photos and videos of PM, No 10, House of	the country (eg how to spend money) with
	Commons	other members of Parliament
Vocabulary: parliament, vote, Houses of	Pass some 'laws' for the classroom	Ch will know that the people in England voted
Parliaments, government, laws, rules, protect,	Have a mock election for class PM for the day	for the PM and that he lives at 10 Downing St
advice, 10 Downing St, election		
3. To visit an iconic landmark (Buckingham	Visit: sketches, photos, videos, artefacts,	Ch will have visited and have knowledge of an

Palace or Westminster Abbey if London- local relevant visit if not)	stories	iconic landmark for England's leaders
4. To understand that there are different types of environments (eg rainforest, desert, urban)	Role play with animals in different settings Collages of different environments Explore sand and or soil and the effects of water – include plastic animals/lego people	Ch will be able to identify and describe a range of different environments
Vocabulary: desert, rainforest, city, town, savannah, arctic, farmland, woodland,	and houses made of different materials Water tray – pebbles, sharks, whales etc	
marine, environment, trees, grass, sand,	water tray peobles, sharks, whates etc	
mountains, ocean		
5. To understand that environments can be	Litter walk of the local area	Ch will understand that people can damage
damaged	Where does rubbish go? Brainstorm	the environment.
	Smog and other types of pollution	Ch will understand we can be responsible for
Vocabulary: pollution, damage, rubbish, care,	Non-fiction books on the environment	our local area.
citizenship, nature, oil slicks, cars and gases,	Experiment: bury a plastic bag and a piece of	
deforestation	fruit eg apple core	
6. To explore ways in which we can care for	Make recycled paper	Ch will be able to name the ways in which
our environment	Make posters to go around the school for	they can care for the environment and be
	turning off taps and light switches	active citizens eg switching off lights, putting
Vocabulary: recycling, litter, plastic bags,		litter in bins, turning off taps
reusing, paper, saving electricity, turning off		
taps		

Spring B - Understanding the World: Transport past and present		
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes
1. To understand what transport is used for	Prior learning tasks – eg draw all the types of	Ch will share what they already know about

and to be familiar with types of transport	transport ch know	transport
	Name the vehicle	Ch will understand that different types of
	Model use of the word transport in different	transport are used for moving people and
Vocabulary: to be assessed	contexts	objects
2. To name and describe the features of	Transport Museum- local appropriate visit to	Ch will be able to name and describe the
different types of transport	be included here.	features of a variety of transport methods using a range of appropriate vocabulary
Vocabulary: trains, aeroplanes, ships, cars,		
buses, bikes, motorbikes, barges, hot air		
balloon, hovercraft, wheels, rotor blades,		
helicopter, sea, canal, rail tracks, roads,		
airport, port, dock		
3. To recognise changes in transport from the	Train sets	Ch will be able to describe trains in the past
past to the present: trains	Thomas the Tank Engine	and compare them to trains in the present
	Video clips and photos of steam trains	Ch will use a range of appropriate vocabulary
Vocabulary: steam, electric, rail tracks, coal,	Label a steam train (wheels, carriage, steam	when describing trains
drivers, signals, deliveries, goods, stations,	funnel, coal fire, ticket conductor)	
level crossings, underground/tube, safety,	Role play: buying and selling train tickets	
tunnel, engine, passenger carriages	Identify rail route on older maps	
4. To recognise changes in transport from the	Design a car	Ch will know that cars have changed over
past to the present: cars	Measure the speed and distance of cars rolled	time
	down ramps	Ch will be able to describe the features of a
Vocabulary: cars, wheels, steering wheel,		car
windows, windscreen, windscreen wipers,		
exhaust pipe, engine, horse and cart, wind up		
motors		
5. To recognise changes in transport from the	Create paper aeroplanes and have a	Ch will be able to describe the features of an
past to the present: aeroplanes	competition for design and to measure	aeroplane

Vocabulary: flight, wings, nose and tail, propeller, cockpit, landing wheels, rudder, engine	successful distance travelled (metres)	Ch will be able to identify the difference between an antique and modern aeroplane
6. To understand how to keep safe on the roads	Youth for road safety trust: request a speaker and action kit Reflector strips for bags?	Ch will know several strategies for looking after themselves on the roads Ch will be able to identify the safest place to
Vocabulary: STOP, LOOK, LISTEN! Zebra crossings, pelican crossings, red, amber, green, push buttons, traffic lights, an invitation to cross, Highway Code, holding hands		cross a road

Summer A - Understanding the World: Growth (plan is subject to change depending on butterflies, chicks, plants, etc)		
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes
1. To understand that animals change as they	Check prior knowledge of chicks and	Ch will recognize the life cycle of a butterfly
grow.	butterflies	Ch will know how to care for animals
	Explain care of chicks and butterflies – create	
Vocabulary: butterflies, caterpillars, cocoons,	set of class rules	
hatch, wings, antennae, chicks, chickens,	Paint butterflies with symmetry	
eggs, shells, peck, beak, life cycles, growth	Collage butterflies	
and change, incubator		
2. To observe and record the growth of a	Create chick diaries to use for recording	Ch will know how to record their observations
chick from an egg	observations each week	in a diary format
	Chick potato prints	Ch will confidently use the vocabulary to
Vocabulary: chick, egg, incubator, shell,	Create hatching egg with split pins	describe the growth of chicks
chicken, heat, food		

3. To name and describe farm animals and their young	Pre-teach vocabulary for farm trip How to behave around animals on the farm	Ch will use the correct vocabulary when naming and describing farm animals and their
then young	Road safety reminders	young
Vocabulary: sheep, lamb, cow, calf, horse,	,	, ,
foal, goat, kid, pig, piglet, dog, puppy, cat,		
kitten, duck, duckling, chicken, chick		
4. To observe farm animals and their young in	City farm trip or farm trip if local	Ch will experience a working farm and will
their habitat	Reminder about road safety for transport to and from the farm and how to behave with	observe farm animals in their habitats Ch can describe how to behave appropriately
Vocabulary: as above + farm, tractor, pen,	animals. Risk assessment.	when out of school and around animals
stable, fence, farmer, field, straw, mud, pond,		
feed		
5. To know what plants need to grow	Planting seeds, bulbs, herbs	Ch will have planted a seed and know what it
	Growing cress seeds	needs to grow
Vocabulary: seed, soil, water, sunlight, roots,	Beans in kitchen roll and plastic cups	Ch will be able to use the correct vocabulary
stem, leaves, flower, bulb, shoots	The Tiny Seed	to label a plant
	Labelling plants	
6. To recognise the common garden fruit and	Celery and dye experiment (veins)	Ch will be able to recognize and name
vegetables	Make vegetable soup or a salad	common fruit and vegetables
	Healthy teddy bears picnic	Ch will describe the taste, texture and smell
Vocabulary: lettuce, tomato, cucumber,	Taste, texture and smell tests	of a variety of fruit/vegetables
potato, celery, carrot, beetroot, spinach,	Observational drawings	
cauliflower, broccoli, apple, pear, orange,		
banana		
7. To know how we change as we grow: teeth	Dentist visit	Ch will know that teeth change as we grow
	Role play dentistry with toothbrushes	Ch will know how to care for their teeth
Vocabulary: teeth, milk, toothbrush/paste,	Role play with food	

dentist, healthy eating	Links to healthy eating	
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Summer B - Understanding the World: Flags; Healthy Bodies – this topic will be based on 2014 World Cup in Brazil			
Learning objectives and key vocabulary	Possible experiences/activities/opportunities	Outcomes	
1. To know some basic information about a	Map work- identify participating countries on	Ch will know what the World Cup is and that	
chosen sport e.g. Brazil World Cup 2014	a world map, begin to discuss continents and	it is being played in Brazil this year.	
	countries.	Ch will know some other countries that are	
Vocabulary: Brazil, World Cup, football, team,	Design own football shirts- on paper or if	playing in the World Cup.	
player, goals, pitch, referee, red card, yellow	possible on t-shirts.	Children will use relevant vocabulary when	
card, score, nil, kit	Watch some clips of famous football matches.	talking about the World Cup.	
2.To locate countries where we live/have	Create class display reflecting countries	Children will recognize several flags and the	
visited in an atlas and recognise flags	children are from/have visited on a pinboard.	countries they belong to.	
	Design a flag/copy own flag	Children will be able to name several	
Vocabulary: Map, globe, atlas, flags, country,	Matching flags to countries card game	countries.	
city, and other vocab relevant to chosen sport		Children will know that an Atlas can be used	
		to find out about countries around the world.	
3. To understand there are special places	Visit sporting venue.	Children will experience a sporting venue.	
where people play sports.		Children will confidently use relevant	
		vocabulary.	
Vocabulary: Stadium, supporters, fans,			
tickets, turnstile, pitch, changing rooms, score			
board, dribbling, shooting.			
4. To understand how football is played	Make a list of rules for team games.	Children understand how football is played.	
	Team building games (e.g pass the football	Children will understand the need for rules in	
Vocab: team, player, rules, kit, see previous	between elbows, over and under etc)	team games.	
weeks vocab.	Play some mini games of football.	Children will develop their cooperation skills	
	Learn ball skills such as dribbling and	when participating in team games.	

	shooting.	
5. To know our heart beat changes when we exercise	Set up investigation where children can exercise and then stop to feel their heart beat.	Children will know that your heart beats faster when you exercise.
Vocabulary: Heart beat, pulse, blood, veins, breath, sweat, movement, organs, exercise	Discuss how feeling your pulse on your wrist is your blood flowing around your body, but if you put your hands on your chest, you can feel your heart beat.	Children will know your heart beats slower when you are resting.
6. To know how athletes prepare for their events Vocabulary: healthy eating, sleep, exercise, training, lessons, coach etc.	Have an athlete (sporty person) come in and talk to the children about training, healthy eating, sleeping, participating in race/competition, losing and winning etc.	Children will know that athletes have to work hard to succeed in sports. Children will know athletes sometimes win and sometimes lose in competitions.

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