



Understanding the World

Understanding the World is one of the four specific areas of the EYFS framework, and it is broken down into three areas; **‘people, cultures and communities’**, **‘past and present’**, and **‘the natural world’**. It involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the environment.

In our Reception classes, **Understanding the World** is taught through a play-based and interactive approach under termly topics such as **‘It’s Cold Outside’**, **‘Marvellous Me’**, **‘Hello Autumn’** and **‘To Infinity and Beyond’**. We carefully plan lessons, activities and experiences that ignite curiosity, awe, and wonder and inspire children to explore and ask questions about the world around them. Children explore their own culture and those of others through learning about and celebrating festivals, such as **Christmas**, **Diwali** and **Chinese New Year**. Our children learn mutual respect and tolerance through the broad and diverse range of texts and resources we employ in our learning environment, alongside carefully planned play opportunities and direct teaching.

Where possible, we aim to make strong links to the children’s own experiences and interests, particularly through our **‘I Wonder...’** lessons. The children’s own questions form the starting point of our planning and allow the children to gain knowledge and understanding of concepts and ideas in a way that is meaningful to them. For example, one of our children was keen to find out how bees make honey, another was fascinated by carnivorous plants, and another interested to know whether anyone could become a queen. We were able to enhance the children’s learning environment and offer a wealth of knowledge and information to reflect these questions and the learning commenced!

The outside learning environment plays an important role in our teaching of Understanding the Word, as it does in all the areas of learning in the EYFS. At Godinton Primary School we provide children with regular opportunities to explore the natural world throughout our beautiful grounds, including in our carefully curated forest area, large field with established trees, and pond area. You will often find our children hunting for minibeasts amongst the autumn leaves or using and exploring the natural materials they find to create their own transient art. The children are taught to recognise change in the world around them as the year progresses, and explore physical change through fun and exciting experiments.

How does a bee make honey?



Let's Go Outside!



