

Term	AUTUMN 1 🍁	AUTUMN 2 🍂	SPRING 1 ❄️	SPRING 2 🌱	SUMMER 1 ☀️	SUMMER 2 😊
Whole School Theme	Exploring Our Environment	Materials & Structures	Survival & Problem Solving	Plants & Growth	Navigation & Mapping	Outdoor Skills & Bushcraft Basics
NC Links	Science: Living things & habitats Geography: Local environment fieldwork	Science: Materials DT: Designing & building structures	PSHE: Resilience & teamwork PE: Problem-solving challenges	Science: Plants, life cycles	Geography: Maps, fieldwork Maths: Position & direction	Science: Materials & their uses PE: Coordination, problem-solving PSHE: Confidence, independence, responsibility
Suggested Books	"We're Going on a Bear Hunt" – Michael Rosen - Perfect for EYFS/KS1 sensory exploration outdoors "The Stick Man" – Julia Donaldson - Links to woodland environments and storytelling "The Lost Words" – Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris - Beautiful for KS2 nature vocabulary	"The Three Little Pigs" (traditional tale) - Ideal for structure building across all ages "Iggy Peck, Architect" – Andrea Beaty - Great for KS1/KS2 design thinking "The Rhythm of the Rain" – Grahame Baker-Smith - Subtle link to materials	"Lost and Found" – Oliver Jeffers - Problem-solving and journey "The Gruffalo" – Julia Donaldson - Clever thinking and survival themes "Kaspar: Prince of Cats" (adapt extracts for KS2) – Michael Morpurgo - Survival and resilience themes	"Jasper's Beanstalk" – Nick Butterworth - Perfect for EYFS/KS1 plant growth "The Tiny Seed" – Eric Carle - Life cycle understanding "A Seed Is Sleepy" – Dianna Aston - Excellent KS2 science links	"Rosie's Walk" – Pat Hutchins - Mapping and directional language "Me on the Map" – Joan Sweeney - Understanding place and scale "The Explorer" – Katherine Rundell - Rich KS2 link to navigation and survival	"Not a Stick" – Antoinette Portis (EYFS/KS1 creativity) "The Stick Book" – Fiona Danks & Jo Schofield (perfect practical ideas) "Forest School Adventure" – Dan Westall (staff + KS2 inspiration)

	and discussion	and environment				
	TERMLY MAIN ACTIVITY					
EYFS	Sensory woodland walk (touch, smell, sound hunt) Collect natural objects 👉 Outcome: Describe environment using senses	Build with sticks and mud 👉 Focus: Exploration	Follow simple trail / find hidden objects 👉 Skill: Listening & following instructions	Plant seeds in forest area 👉 Understanding growth	Follow picture trail 👉 Simple direction	Natural art (leaf crowns, stick frames, mud painting) 👉 Skills: Fine motor skills, creativity, exploration
Y1	Simple scavenger hunt (leaf, stick, insect) 👉 Skill: Identify common plants & animals	Build a mini shelter for a toy 👉 Skill: Simple design thinking	Team challenge: move objects without hands 👉 PSHE: Cooperation	Identify trees/plants 👉 Basic naming	Use arrows / symbols around forest area 👉 Basic mapping	Make a simple nature bracelet (tape + collected items) 👉 Skills: Selecting materials, basic design 👉 Outcome: Recognise and use natural materials
Y2	Sort found objects (living/non-living) 👉 Science: Basic classification	Test waterproof materials (leaves, bark) 👉 Science: Material properties	Simple obstacle course 👉 Skill: Physical coordination	Observe changes over time 👉 Growth	Draw simple map of area 👉 Representation	Activity: Build a mini bug hotel 👉 Skills: Arranging materials with purpose 👉 Science link: Habitats
Y3	Habitat spotting + animal homes 👉 Concept: Habitats & survival needs	Build a small den in teams 👉 Skill: Structure & stability	Shelter in a time limit challenge 👉 Skill: Teamwork	Label plant parts in real examples 👉 Science vocabulary	Grid map with key 👉 Mapping skills	Basic knot tying (overhand knot / simple lashings) 👉 Skills: Practical coordination

Y4	Microhabitats (logs, leaf litter) 👉 Skill: Observe closely & record	Improve a shelter after testing 👉 Skill: Evaluate & adapt	Solve outdoor puzzles (e.g. clue trail) 👉 Skill: Logical thinking	Investigate what plants need (light/water) 👉 Simple experiment discussion	Compass directions 👉 Geography	Build a simple structure (e.g. small frame or shelter element) 👉 Skills: Stability, teamwork
Y5	Food chains in forest area 👉 Science: Ecosystems	Strong bridge using natural materials 👉 Science: Forces (basic)	Survival scenario (limited resources) 👉 PSHE: Decision-making	Reproduction in plants (flowers/pollinators) 👉 Science knowledge	Orienteering course 👉 Application	Outdoor tool use (e.g. peelers for whittling soft sticks – tightly supervised) 👉 Skills: Control, responsibility
Y6	Human impact discussion + evidence spotting 👉 Geography: Environmental change	Design + build survival shelter with criteria 👉 DT: Plan → Make → Evaluate	Lead team challenge (pupil-led) 👉 Leadership	Compare plant adaptations 👉 Evolution/adaptation link	Create navigation challenge for others 👉 Leadership + geography	Fire lighting demonstration + simple camp cooking (if allowed) 👉 Skills: Responsibility, safety awareness, leadership

Notes:

- Each year group must complete their main activity each term (a minimum of one afternoon per half-term but can do more!)
- Children should be wearing Outdoor Learning appropriate clothing (message sent out to parents prior to the planned delivery)
- Evidence: photos/videos put on Seesaw with an explanation of the activities undertaken
- The activities are simple so class teachers can put their own spin and insight into them. Link to current teaching where possible
- The main activity could be part of a rotation of activities, including some of the ideas below:

Activities to supplement main activity could include:

1. Nature Scavenger Hunt

- Find items (leaf, stick, feather, something rough, etc.)

- Adapt difficulty by age (pictures for EYFS, written clues for KS2)

2. Sensory Walk / Spot Challenge

- Walk slowly and:
 - Name 3 things you can see, hear, feel
- KS2 extension: describe using adjectives

3. Outdoor Reading Corner

- Sit quietly and read a short book/text
- KS2: read and then summarise to a partner

4. Nature Photography

- Use tablets/cameras (or imaginary “framing” if none available)
- Challenge: photograph patterns, colours, textures

5. Stick Sorting / Classification

- Sort sticks by:
 - Size
 - Shape
 - Texture

- KS2: introduce categories & reasoning

6. Mini Beast Hunt

- Look under logs, leaves, bark
- Record what you find (drawing or tally)

7. Soil Digging / Investigation

- Dig a small patch safely
- Look for:
 - Worms
 - Roots
 - Different soil layers

8. Natural Art Station

- Create:
 - Pictures
 - Patterns
 - Mandalas using natural materials

9. Texture Rubbings

- Use crayons & paper
 - Rub over bark, leaves, ground surfaces
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10. Sit Spot (Mindfulness)

- Sit quietly for 2–5 minutes
 - Focus on:
 - Sounds
 - Movement
 - Share one observation after
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11. Simple Movement Challenges

- Balance on logs
 - Hop between markers
 - Follow a marked trail
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12. Follow the Trail

- Follow arrows / markers around the forest area
 - KS2: create their own trail for others
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13. Nature Alphabet

- Find or create each letter using sticks/nature
 - KS2: spell words (e.g. "forest")
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14. Build a Small Object

- Make:
 - A tiny den (toy-sized)
 - A bridge
 - A structure using sticks
 - No instruction needed beyond "build something stable"
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15. Question Cards / Talking Area

- Simple prompts:
 - "What is your favourite thing here?"
 - "What would survive best in this forest?"
- Great for oracy skills

