





## GTS Learning Focus: The Natural World

Our focus of 'The Natural World' brings together Science, Geography, Art & Design, Design & Technology, Computing and Maths. By ensuring effective progression of components within subjects and effective links across the curriculum, the children at Glastonbury Thorn School gain a better understanding of the physical world around them.

 By studying human biology, our children learn to identify the different parts of their body and link the human senses and their importance and purpose. The children progress onto looking at human survival and the basic needs to survive in various conditions. When studying animals, the children at GTS begin by focusing on animals that are recognisable within our locality including pets, woodland creatures, farm animals, mini-beasts and then progressing onto animals in the jungle and other habitats. The children study life cycles and food chains learning about how different creatures are dependent upon each other. The children identify and classify different animals, learning how animals adapt and survive in different habitats around the world. By studying plant biology, the children begin identifying different types of plants and trees within the location of the school. This progresses further by looking at different countries in the UK and natural habitats in contrasting localities. The children at Glastonbury Thorn School learn to name the different parts of plants and trees and develop the understanding of the purpose of these parts. The children learn about growing from seeds and bulbs and understand what plants need to survive and flourish. By studying the weather, our children understand how to record changes including how the seasons affects the natural world around them. Learning about measures in maths aids this learning.

 Focusing on physical geography, the children are encouraged to observe changes within the seasons throughout the year. To aid this learning, the teaching of time in maths links strongly to this. Through the children's learning journey, the children recognise and explain how the weather affects the locality around them. The children learn to identify the basic features of woodlands/forests and the jungle. Progressing further, the children identify the basic physical features of the coast and then UK countries, the different continents and oceans and the physical features of a contrasting locality in India.



By developing the use of materials and techniques in Art, the children at GTS improve their understanding further of the natural world around them. Our children begin by making a collage of natural objects found in their locality. The children begin to learn to mix colours, initially to represent the colours of autumn and then to represent animals and humans. Developing their skills of collage, the children complete a seasonal scene also demonstrating their understanding of the changing seasons and the physical effects on the locality. This develops further by producing a collage of wildlife in the style of Sandra Dieckman, the author and illustrator of 'Leaf.' To develop the skills of observational drawing, the children begin by making simple drawings using shape. The knowledge of shape links strongly to maths. The children develop their observational skills by drawing wildlife in their natural habitat when visiting Rushmere Park. This leads to painting in the style of Van Gogh's 'Sunflower.' The children develop their understanding of perspective and continue to produce art work and sculptures in greater detail and accuracy.



Through the focus of 'The Natural World,' the children develop their design skills for a purpose by making a pot for a plant. This early skill development of sculpture is built upon in Art, representing wildlife. The children develop an early understanding of joining materials by making their very own mini-beast hotel, linking strongly with their growing understanding of animal biology in Science. To improve the children's understanding of food and nutrition, the children gain a better understanding of healthy foods by constructing a healthy fruit smoothie. Understanding where foods come from links strongly to plant biology covered in Science.



# GTS Learning Focus: The Natural World

## Autumn Term

## Spring Term

## Summer Term

EFYS

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

**Human Biology**  
Name the body parts and senses

**Physics**  
Name the seasons

**Plant Biology**  
Name trees, their parts and compare

**Animal Biology**  
Name woodland animals and compare

**Physical Geography / Fieldwork**  
Observe changes in seasons (ongoing)

**Physical Geography**  
Identify features of woodlands

**Materials & Techniques**  
Collage of natural objects

**Materials & Techniques**  
Mixing red, yellow, blue – autumn leaves (leaf rubbing) using tools for effect

Time

Shape

**Animal Biology**  
Name pets and compare features

**Animal Biology**  
Name jungle animals and compare

**Physical Geography**  
Identify features of a jungle

**Materials & Techniques**  
Colour mixing, adding white – Jungle animals

**Animal Biology**  
Name farm animals and compare features

**Plant Biology**  
Name parts of plants

**Animal Biology**  
Basic life cycles

**Animal Biology**  
Name mini-beasts

**Materials & Techniques**  
Manipulate materials – clay mini-beasts

**Make**  
Manipulate clay – plant pot

**Make**  
Joining materials - Mini-beast houses

**Human Biology**  
Identify body parts and senses

**Physics**  
Record changes in the weather and seasons

**Plant Biology**  
Identify Deciduous and Evergreen trees

**Physical Geography**  
Identify the features of a coast

**Physical Geography / Fieldwork**  
Explain the effects of weather on the locality / Make simple observations

Measure

**Materials & Techniques**  
Collage – the seasons

**Plant Biology**  
Identify a variety of trees

**Animal Biology**  
Identify & classify animals

**Physical Geography**  
Identify basic features of the UK countries

**Physical Geography**  
Identify features of a forest

**Digital Literacy**  
Digital photography – Weather Report

**Materials & Techniques**  
Observational drawing and painting - wildlife

**Skills & Digital Literacy**  
Presenting information - Rushmere

**Animal Biology**  
Identify & classify animals

**Plant Biology**  
Identify parts of plants, explaining their purpose

**Materials & Techniques / Review**  
Observational painting - sunflowers

**Cooking & Nutrition**  
Design and make a smoothie

**Human & Animal Biology**  
Living, dead, never lived

**Human & Animal Biology**  
Basic needs of animals & humans to survive (hot & cold)

**Animal Biology**  
Identify animals in their habitats and how they survive

**Statistics**

**Materials & Techniques / Review**  
Collage of nature in the style of an illustrator

**Physical Geography**  
Identify the continents and oceans

**Animal Biology**  
Food chains and life cycles

**Plant Biology**  
Growing from bulbs and seeds

**Plant Biology**  
Identify and name plants in a range of habitats

**Animal Biology**  
Habitats including identifying animals in micro-habitats

**Place Knowledge**  
Identify physical features of a contrasting locality

**Materials & Techniques**  
Detailed observation of plants (learnt techniques and use of a range of media)

**Materials & Techniques**  
Detailed sculpture of plants

