



Curriculum Booklet

Nursery– Autumn 2026

English



Across Autumn 1 'Who Am I?' and Autumn 2 'What Do I Enjoy?', children will develop a love of books through daily story sharing, repeated refrains, rhyme and retelling. Key texts include Owl Babies, From Head to Toe, Elmer, Giraffes Can't Dance, The Colour Monster, We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Dogger, Let's Celebrate!, The Little Red Hen, Kitchen Disco, Whatever Next! and Jesus' Christmas Party. Children will make marks for a purpose, draw and talk about their pictures, notice their names, build listening skills and begin to hear sounds in words through playful phonics.

Maths

Children will develop early number recognition, through counting in play, matching and comparing small quantities, sorting, pattern and practical problem solving. Autumn experiences include counting owls, body parts, toys and ingredients; comparing big/small and more/fewer; making repeating colour and movement patterns; using positional language; exploring shape through construction; and applying mathematical language naturally across continuous provision.



Understanding of the World

Children will explore themselves, their families, Nursery and the wider world. Autumn 1 supports body awareness, families, emotions, similarities and differences, animals and seasonal outdoor exploration. Autumn 2 will help develop understanding about different celebrations and traditions, food and where it comes from, music and movement, imaginative journeys and Christmas. Children will be encouraged to notice, ask questions, compare and talk about their own experiences



Expressive Arts and Design



Children will express ideas through painting, collage, printing, playdough, junk modelling, music, dance and imaginative play. Experiences include owl and family art, self-portraits, Elmer patterns, movement to music, emotion colour work, bear-hunt story maps, toy making, celebration decorations, bread making, Kitchen Disco movement, box/rocket creations and Christmas and other celebration crafts.

Communication and Language

Communication and language is in all activities we do every week. Children will listen to stories, join in with repeated phrases, learn new vocabulary and talk about family, bodies, feelings, abilities, favourite things and experiences. Adults will model sentences, extend children's language, use open questions and support children to retell, explain, describe and take turns in conversation.



PSED

Children will settle into Nursery, build trusting relationships and develop a strong sense of belonging. Through stories and play they will explore separation and reunion, friendship, sharing, turn-taking, confidence, perseverance, individuality and emotions. Autumn 2 builds on this through cooperation, helping others, enjoying shared celebrations and recognising that families and communities may celebrate in different ways.



Physical Development

Daily activities, self-care routines, outdoor provision and movement experiences will strengthen gross and fine motor development. Children will thread, peg, squeeze, mould, use tweezers, draw, paint, cut and manipulate tools. Gross-motor opportunities include balancing, animal movements, dancing, obstacle courses, bear-hunt journeys and outdoor exploration. Independence with coats, toileting, handwashing and tooth brushing will be encouraged.



Home Learning



Families can support learning by sharing favourite stories together, talking about family photographs and feelings, singing rhymes, counting everyday objects, noticing shapes and patterns, and encouraging children to draw and make marks. During Autumn 2, families can talk about favourite toys, foods, music and celebrations, share a family tradition or celebration, cook or bake together and encourage children to help with simple everyday routines. Please share children's interests, celebrations and achievements with Nursery so they can be celebrated in school.



Autumn 1 - Who Am I?

Weeks 1-2 Owl Babies
Week 3 From Head to Toe
Week 4 Elmer
Week 5 Giraffes Can't Dance
Week 6 The Colour Monster
Week 7-8 We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Autumn 2 - What Do I Enjoy?

Week 1 Dogger
Week 2 Let's Celebrate! Special Days Around the World
Week 3 The Little Red Hen
Week 4 Kitchen Disco
Week 5 Whatever Next!
Week 6-7 Jesus' Christmas Party