



Nursery Autumn Term 2026 – 2027

Programme of Study

This Autumn term, our Nursery class will begin their learning journey with our topic, 'Marvellous Me.' We will learn about ourselves, our families and people who help us in our local community, while helping children to settle happily into Nursery and grow in confidence and independence with our school routine. Weekly nursery rhymes, including favourites such as *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and *The Wheels on the Bus*, will support language, listening, rhythm and early literacy skills. As the term progresses, we will also explore autumn, celebrations and Christmas, culminating in our very special Pre-Prep Nativity.

Alongside our topic work, Read Write Inc. sessions will focus on the important foundations for phonics. Children will develop their ability to sit and engage in adult-led activities for increasingly sustained periods, strengthen their listening skills and enjoy rhyming games, stories and sound activities. This will build strong foundations for learning letter sounds and early reading later in the year.

Children's learning is carefully sequenced across the year so that skills and knowledge are introduced, developed and secured. All areas of learning in are covered each term with increasing independence, depth and complexity. The table below lists some of the statements from the Early Years Curriculum that we will be building upon this term.

Communication and Language	• Pay attention to more than one thing at a time. • Use a wider range of vocabulary. • Understand questions/instructions with two parts. • Use longer sentences of four to six words. • Start and sustain conversations for many turns. • Use talk to organise themselves and their play.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	• Select and use activities/resources, with help when needed. • Develop responsibility and membership of a community. • Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people and confident in new social situations. • Play with one or more children, extending and elaborating play ideas. • Increasingly follow and remember rules, understanding why they are important. • Talk about feelings using words such as happy, sad, angry and worried. • Become increasingly independent in personal care needs.



Physical Development	• Develop movement, balancing, riding and ball skills. • Go up steps/stairs or climb apparatus using alternate feet. • Use large-muscle movements to paint, mark-make and use large equipment. • Choose appropriate resources to carry out plans. • Use one-handed tools and equipment. • Use a comfortable grip with good pencil control; show hand preference.
Mathematics	• Subitise up to 3 objects. • Recite numbers past 5 • Link numerals and amounts up to 5. • Compare quantities using more than/fewer than. • Explore 2D/3D shapes using mathematical language. • Understand position; describe familiar routes and locations. • Identify, extend/create and correct repeating patterns. • Begin to sequence events using first/then.
Literacy	• Understand five key concepts about print: meaning, purposes, directionality, book parts and page sequencing. • Develop phonological awareness: rhyme, syllables and initial sounds. • Use some print and letter knowledge in early writing. • Recognise their name on labels.
Understanding the World	• Use all senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Explore collections of materials with similar/different properties. • Talk about what they see using a wide vocabulary. • Show interest in different occupations. • Talk about material differences and changes noticed.
Expressive Art and Design	• Take part in simple pretend play using objects symbolically. • Explore materials freely; develop ideas and decide which materials to use. • Make imaginative/complex small worlds with blocks and construction. • Create closed shapes with continuous lines and use them to represent objects. • Explore colour and colour mixing. • Listen with increased attention to sounds.