

Nursery Key Learning Threads

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Self-Regulation	Follow simple routines with visual or verbal prompts	Begin to talk about how they and others feel.	Maintain attention in small group activities.	Express feelings more clearly using because.	Shows pride in following expectations.	Begins to wait, take turns and share more independently.
Managing Self	Express basic needs e.g. thirsty, hungry, toileting.	Puts own coat and shoes on independently.	Understanding behaviour expectations.	Understands consequences of some actions e.g. 'If I run I might fall.'	Shows resilience when trying to something new.	Chooses and completes activities with focus.
Building Relationships	Forms relationship with key person.	Plays alongside others with shared resources.	Waits for a turn in a familiar game with adult support.	Shows care and concern for others.	Develops special friendships.	Begins to negotiate to solve problems.
Listening, Attention and Understanding	Shift attention between play and adult led moments.	Anticipate repeated refrains in rhymes and stories.	Follow directions, especially after hearing their name.	Listen to longer stories with increasing recall.	Give full attention when spoken to by an adult	Answer who/what/where questions and anticipate key events in familiar stories.
Speaking	Use 3-5 word sentences.	Use joining words and/because	Retell simple stories using pictures or prompts.	Use language to engage with peers during pretend play.	Ask why and how questions.	Use language to express themselves in different ways.
Gross Motor Skills	Explores moving on different levels, climbing up & down stairs.	Jumps with some control.	To be able to control a ball in different ways	Climbs and balances on play equipment.	To move safely with confidence and imagination, communicating ideas through movement.	Can follow instructions in combining movements, running at speed and an obstacle course.
Fine Motor Skills	Uses 2 hands in co-ordinated manner to build, mark make and manipulate materials.	Makes snips in paper using scissors.	Develops use of cutlery, and jug to pour own drink.	Draws more recognisable people and copies simple shapes.	Demonstrates growing independence in putting on coat and shoes, begin to do zips & buttons.	Uses 1 handed tools with control and copies own name.
Comprehension	Understands and follows longer instructions.	Answers who, where and what questions linked to stories shared.	Recognises and talks about characters and settings, and begins to make predictions.	Begins to infer meaning from actions or pictures within a story, including character emotions.	Understands time related language.	Retells a familiar story and expresses opinions about it.
Word Reading	Recognises own name.	Develops awareness of rhyme through nursery rhymes and rhyming activities.	Shows an interest in 'reading' familiar print through symbols, logos, familiar books.	Identify initial sounds.	Begins to develop oral blending skills.	Begins to recognise familiar letters and understand that these represent sounds.
Writing	Explores mark making with different tools.	Imitates simple shapes and lines.	Begins to use some recognisable letters or shapes in writing, distinguishing this as writing.	Begin to write for imaginative purposes, showing an understanding of what writing looks like.	Forms some recognisable letters from own name.	Beginning to record some sounds in sequence e.g. initial sounds
Number	Joins in with counting songs, reciting numbers to 5.	Recognition of up to 3 objects.	Can count 5 objects from a larger group.	Begins to show some understanding of addition and subtraction by solving contextual problems.	Explores the composition of numbers to 5.	Counts confidently beyond 5 and represents numbers to 5 with marks, drawings and numerals.
Numerical Patterns	Begin to notice, describe and continue simple patters.	Represents numbers to 5 using objects and fingers.	Engages in counting within play and routines.	Explores simple shapes and special language.	Compares groups with more or less.	Solves simple practical problems using knowledge of adding, subtracting and sharing.
Past and Present	Talk about their family.	Recognise how they change over time.	Begin to understand that people lived in the past.	Shows understanding of seasonal change.	Talk about special occasions from their experiences.	Explore changes over time and begin to talk about what might happen next.
People, Culture and Communities	Know about different types of families.	Begin to be aware of others feelings and show empathy and concern.	Know about their local community and the people within it.	Show an understanding of jobs within their local community.	Understand that people celebrate in different ways.	Recognise that everyone is unique and special.
The Natural World	Use their senses to explore the natural environment.	Explore what happens on cold winter days.	Explore growing seeds and taking care of plants.	Show understanding of animals and their similarities and differences.	Explore natural processes and materials.	Begin to understand how to care for their environment.
Creating with Materials	Explore and manipulate materials.	Experiment with joining materials e.g. glue, tape, stacking, slotting.	Explore what happens when they mix colours.	Explore shape within their creations.	Comment on their creations and the materials they have used.	Represent stories, experiences and emotions in art.
Being Imaginative and Expressive	Join in with simple repetitive rhymes and songs.	Take on simple roles within their play	Create simple narratives within their play.	Uses props to support imaginative play.	Create own songs and dances to express themselves.	Shows confidence in performing to others.