

Acorn Curriculum Overview 2025-26



We are flexible with the themes and will build upon the children's interests and developmental stages. We may spend longer or shorter on a theme and adapt it to ensure the personalised learning targets of each pupil are met, to enable them to build a strong sense of understanding of the world around them and in preparation for adulthood. Children will experience whole school theme days throughout the year. Taught skills will be fluid and highly personalized, individual to the needs of each pupil, so while we have presented this information in a set structure, we know that some learning will be direct, non-linear and incidental.

TERM	Cognitive Development Leading to Early Reading & Writing and Maths	Communication and Language including SCERTS	Wellbeing including Physical Education, Music, Art and Design	Independence
Autumn 1 Marvellous Me All about me Growing up People Who Help Us Emergency Books: My five Senses Marvellous Me All about me Growing up From Head to Toe Visitor/Visit: School Crossing Patrol Local Area Walk & Forest School Police Visitor	Memory and Attention Exploring matching objects or pictures/photos that are the same Problem solving and logical thinking Exploring matching and sorting items Personalised learning and Motivation Developing my interest in activities that include my favorite things Generalisation of skills Following routines with different adults Understanding the world Exploring a variety of objects using my senses Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Developing attention seeking skills Communication in meaningful contexts Make a request with support using a chosen communication method Social communication Share enjoyment with a familiar adult or peer Emotional Expression Explore expressing emotions when upset or frustrated	Emotional Regulation Exploring changes in routine and how to manage them Sensory Regulation To explore sensory experiences Social and Creative Expression Use music, dance and art to express creativity Physical Wellbeing To explore and engage with gross and fine motor activities.	Personal Care and Daily Skills Follow daily routines with visual and verbal prompts Understanding and Belonging Identify familiar people in school, home and community environments Problem Solving Solve simple problems with support Risk Follow simple safety instructions
Autumn 2 Travel and Transport Autumn Books: Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry The Naughty Bus My Little Sailboat, The Autumn Forest Visit/Visitor: Local Area Walk Fire Service Visit	Memory and Attention Exploring following instructions Problem solving and logical thinking Explore cause and effect relationships Personalised learning and Motivation Developing my engagement during a learning task I enjoy Generalisation of skills Explore using visual supports/reminders to help me remember what I need to do Understanding the world Develop my understanding that things exist even when they are not visible. Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Developing my response to my name in a consistent way Communication in meaningful contexts Developing choice making in a shared activity Social communication Explore emotional expression and response in a variety of activities/situations Emotional Expression Explore communicating how we are feeling	Emotional Regulation Exploring the understanding of emotions Sensory Regulation To be able to indicate a preference or dislike to a sensory experience. Social and Creative Expression To be able to respond to music or rhythm Physical Wellbeing To explore and engage with gross and fine motor activities.	Personal Care and Daily Skills Put clothing on and off with minimal support Understanding and Belonging Recognise own name and belongings Problem Solving Choose objects for familiar task to solve the problem Risk Learn to stay in a safe area when shown a boundary

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Spring 1 Colour and Light Books: Brown Bear Brown Bear, Elmer, Mix it up, The Colour Monster Visit/Visitor: Sensory Room Experience	Memory and Attention Developing an understanding of what comes next in a familiar routine or sequence Problem solving and logical thinking Follow and complete a simple sequence of steps Personalised learning and Motivation Developing my engagement to complete a task when given choices I like Generalisation of skills Exploring transferable skills in different activities Understanding the world Explore sorting objects by simple properties Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Exploring choice making between familiar objects using symbols, pictures or objects of reference Communication in meaningful contexts. Exploring sharing an interest in a preferred object, activity or person during community access Social communication Explore emotions in ourselves and others Emotional Expression Explore and enjoy receiving praise during an activity	Emotional Regulation To explore a range of strategies to calm, with or without adult support. Sensory Regulation To be able to take part in self care routines including handwashing, changing, common noises. Social and Creative Expression To explore role play and imaginative play using props Physical Wellbeing To take part in movement based sessions. To imitate physical action or movements modelled	Personal Care and Daily Skills Be able to participate in handwashing with support Understanding and Belonging Engage in group activities with adults Problem Solving Try a different approach when a familiar method doesn't work. Risk To be able to stop when a clear verbal or visual safety prompt is given.
Spring 2 Traditional Tales Books: Little Red Riding Hood The Enormous Turnip What the Ladybird Heard at the Zoo, Visit/Visitor: Blackpool Zoo	Memory and Attention Developing our focus and concentration for increasing amounts of time Problem solving and logical thinking Exploring puzzle solving with multiple pieces and steps Personalised learning and Motivation Exploring trying a new task using a motivator I like Generalisation of skills Exploring transferable skills in different activities Understanding the world Explore sorting objects by simple properties Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Exploring communicating a need or preference Communication in meaningful contexts Joining in a favourite play routine or game Social communication Explore and develop joint attention with an adult on a shared object or activity Emotional Expression Explore recognising an achievement I have made	Emotional Regulation To be able to follow a calming routine with adult support and/or visual cues. Sensory Regulation To participate in sensory activities that promote regulation Social and Creative Expression To engage in story telling and song time. Physical Wellbeing To develop transitions between physical and quiet activities with support.	Personal Care and Daily Skills Indicate the need for toileting using their chosen method of communication Understanding and Belonging Throughout the year, explore objects and activities related to cultural or seasonal events Problem Solving Begin to seek help from adults, Risk Begin to identify safe, familiar adults.

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Summer 1 Home Sweet Home! (Local Area) Book: A Squash and a Squeeze Lets build a House Sharing a shell Look what I found at the Seaside Visit/Visitor: Stanley Park Walk Sports Stay and Play with families	Memory and Attention Beginning to engage in an activity while ignoring distractions Problem solving and logical thinking Exploring problem solving using trial and error Personalised learning and Motivation Explore making a choice between 2 or more learning activities that I like/know Generalisation of skills Exploring transferable skills in a variety of different learning environments Understanding the world Explore how things work Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Developing initiating an interaction with adults or peers Communication in meaningful contexts Initiate a favourite play routine or game Social communication Explore joining in with a simple social routine with support Emotional Expression Explore expressing anticipation or excitement in a familiar routine or activity	Emotional Regulation To be able to choose a preferred calming routine with adult support and/or visual cues. Sensory Regulation To participate in a preferred sensory activity that promotes regulation. Social and Creative Expression To engage and explore retelling familiar stories using gesture, visuals or anticipate endings. Physical Wellbeing To take part in movement based sessions with structured routines	Personal Care and Daily Skills Follow a basic routine with visual or verbal prompts, with adult support Understanding and Belonging Show an interest in family or home related photos or symbols Problem Solving Continue to solve problems with less adult support Risk Be able to recognise when an object of situation is unsafe with adult support.
Summer 2 All Creatures Great and Small Books: The Very Busy Spider Farmyard Hullabaloo Mad about Minibeasts Mad about Megabeasts Superworm Visit/Visitor: Mobile Farm School Nurse Sports Workshop Butterflies/Duckling visit	Memory and Attention Exploring breaks during activities and then returning to the task. Problem solving and logical thinking Exploring using a learned strategy to solve a similar task. Personalised learning and Motivation Explore using skills that match what I am ready to use Generalisation of Skills Exploring responding to a cue in new settings with support Understanding the world Develop an interest in how things work. Early Literacy and Early mathematics skills	Core communication skills Explore making a request using a more intentional communication method Communication in meaningful contexts Exploring engaging in a back and forth interaction during a play routine or game Social communication Explore imitation of actions or vocalisations during social games or activities Emotional Expression Explore co-regulation activities before dysregulation occurs	Emotional Regulation To be able to choose a preferred calming routine with adult support and/or visual cues. Sensory Regulation To participate in a preferred sensory activities that promote regulation Social and Creative Expression To engage and explore retelling familiar stories using gesture, visuals or anticipate endings. To develop imaginative play with peers. Physical Wellbeing To take part in movement based sessions with structured routines	Personal Care and Daily Skills Follow a basic routine with visual or verbal prompts, more independently Understanding and Belonging Begin to greet or recognise familiar people Problem Solving Begin to gather resources to solve a problem Risk Begin to seek help from adults in a variety of settings.