

# Nursery Curriculum Overview 2026 - 27

| TERM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Themes                                                                       | Communication and Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Physical                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Personal, Social and Emotional Development                                                                                                                      | Literacy: Comprehension, Word Reading,, and Writing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mathematics: Number and Numerical Patterns                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Expression Arts and Design                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Understanding the World                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>Autumn 1</b></p> <p>One In A Million</p> <p><b>Visits and Visitors</b></p> <p>Visitors SMJ Falconry,</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes &amp; Songs</b></p> <p>Incy Wincy Spider</p> <p>Grand Old Juke of York</p> <p>Where’s the Dinosaur</p>                    | <p>Family, Ourselves.</p>                                                    | <p>Enjoy listening to and talking about stories.</p> <p>Develop a repertoire of songs.</p> <p>Develop communication (may have some difficulty with irregular tenses &amp; plurals)</p> <p>Develop pronunciation (may have difficulty saying some sounds &amp; multi-syllabic words)</p> | <p>Use one handed tools &amp; equipment.</p> <p>Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens &amp; pencils. Eat independently.</p> <p>Be increasingly independent as they get dressed &amp; undressed.</p> <p>Make healthy choices.</p> <p>Develop their movements, balancing, riding &amp; ball skills. Go up steps &amp; stairs or climb up using alternate feet.</p> | <p>Adapting to nursery and building relationships with other children and adults.</p> <p>Select &amp; use activities &amp; resources with help when needed.</p> | <p>Focus Texts –</p> <p>This Is Me</p> <p>Owl Babies</p> <p>We’re Going on a Bear Hunt</p> <p>Mixed a Colorful Story about colour</p> <p>Reading / Writing -</p> <p>Engage in conversations about stories</p> <p>Understands print has meaning</p> <p>Count or clap syllables in a word</p>                                                   | <p>Subitise up to 3 objects</p> <p>Recite numbers past 5</p> <p>count a set of objects saying one number for each item</p> <p>Understand positional language</p> <p>Select shapes appropriately for a task</p> <p>Combine shapes to make new ones.</p> | <p>Explore different materials freely to develop ideas about how to use them and what to make.</p> <p>Develop their own ideas &amp; then decide which materials to use.</p> <p>Create closed shapes with continuous lines &amp; begin to use these shapes to represent objects.</p> <p>Explore colour &amp; colour mixing.</p> <p>Remember &amp; sing entire songs</p> <p>Listen with increased attention to sounds.</p> | <p>Shows interest in different occupations.</p> <p>Talk about the difference between people</p> <p>Use all their senses to explore natural materials.</p> <p>Explore collections of materials with similar / different properties.</p> <p>Talk about themselves and their family</p> <p>Explore how things work</p> |
| <p><b>Autumn 2</b></p> <p>Crunch, Rustle, Whizz, Bang, Pop!</p> <p>Autumn walk around the school.</p> <p><b>Visits/visitors</b></p> <p>Police Visit</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>Hickory, Dickory Dock</p> <p>Jack &amp; Jill</p> <p>Autumn Leaves</p> | <p>Autumn/Winter.</p> <p>Anti Bullying.</p> <p>Christmas.</p> <p>Diwali.</p> | <p>Begin to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.</p> <p>Understand &amp; follow instructions with 2 parts.</p>                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Skip, hop, stand on one leg, &amp; hold a pose.</p> <p>Develop gross motor movements,, e.g., by waving flags, streamers, paint &amp; make marks.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Show confidence in new social situations.</p> <p>Play with other children, extending play ideas.</p>                                                         | <p>Focus texts -</p> <p>What’s in the Witches Kitchen / There’s a Witch in Your Book</p> <p>We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt</p> <p>Leaf Thief</p> <p>Little Firework</p> <p>Norman the Slug Saves Christmas</p> <p>There’s an Elf in Your Book</p> <p>Reading / Writing</p> <p>Understands print has meaning Count or clap syllables in a word</p> | <p>Subitise up to 3 objects</p> <p>Recite numbers past 5</p> <p>count a set of objects saying one number for each item</p> <p>Understand positional language</p>                                                                                       | <p>Listen with increased attention to sounds.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Use all their senses to explore natural materials.</p> <p>Explore collections of materials with similar / different properties.</p> <p>Talk about themselves and their family</p> <p>Explore how things work</p>                                                                                                 |

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| <p><b>Spring 1</b></p> <p>Sparkle &amp; Ice all things Nice</p> <p>What Does Winter Feel Like?</p> <p>Ice investigation</p> <p><b>Visits/visitors</b></p> <p>School crossing patrol visit</p> <p>Fire service visit</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</p> <p>I'm a Little Teapot</p> <p>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</p> | <p>Winter</p> <p>Goldilocks</p> <p>People who help us</p> <p>Chinese New Year</p>                | <p>Begin to develop and use a wider vocabulary</p> <p>Use longer sentences to explain thoughts, ideas and experiences.</p> <p>Use talk to organise thought processes e.g. play ideas</p> | <p>Remember sequences &amp; patterns of movements.</p> <p>Choose an appropriate way to move across equipment.</p> <p>Work with others to move large equipment, e.g., large blocks.</p> <p>Show a preference for a dominant hand.</p> | <p>Develop a sense of responsibility within the nursery community,</p> <p>Become more outgoing with people in the setting.</p> <p>Follow rules and understand why they are important.</p> | <p>Focus Text -</p> <p>Oh no! Shark in the Snow!</p> <p>Ridiculous!</p> <p>Snowball</p> <p>The Gingerbread Man</p> <p>Alan's Big Scary Teeth</p> <p>Reading / Writing -</p> <p>Look at the different ways print is used e.g., posters / signs</p> <p>Understand that text is read from top to bottom &amp; left to right</p> <p>Begin to understand rhyme by spotting rhymes &amp; suggesting rhymes</p> <p>Develop early writing, e.g., by writing shopping lists.</p>       | <p>Know the last number reached when counting objects tells you how many</p> <p>Use fingers to represent numbers up to 5.</p> <p>Link numerals and amounts.</p> <p>Describe a familiar route</p> <p>Discuss routes &amp; locations using words like "in front of" &amp; "behind"</p> <p>Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight &amp; capacity</p> | <p>Begin to develop stories using small work equipment.</p> <p>Join materials &amp; explore textures.</p> <p>Draw with more detail.</p> <p>Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person.</p> <p>Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.</p> | <p>Talk about what they see.</p> <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</p>                                                                         |
| <p><b>Spring 2</b></p> <p>Let's Save The World!</p> <p>Zoo</p> <p>The Superheroes have been captured!</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>The Wheels on the Bus</p> <p>Hey, Diddle, Diddle</p> <p>How to be a Superhero</p>                                                                                                                           | <p>Pancake Day</p> <p>Easter</p> <p>Superheroes</p> <p>Zoo animals</p> <p>World Book Day</p>     | <p>Understand &amp; answer "why" questions</p> <p>Start &amp; maintain a conversation</p>                                                                                                | <p>Start making up group activities with their friends.</p> <p>Choose the right equipment to help them carry out a plan.</p>                                                                                                         | <p>Begin to solve conflicts with others.</p> <p>Remember the nursery rules without being reminded.</p>                                                                                    | <p>Focus Texts -</p> <p>Supertato.</p> <p>There's a Superhero in Your Book</p> <p>Dear Zoo</p> <p>Poo In The Zoo</p> <p>We're Going on an Egg Hunt</p> <p>Reading / writing -</p> <p>Look at the different ways print is used e.g., posters / signs</p> <p>Understand that text is read from top to bottom &amp; left to right</p> <p>Begin to understand rhyme by spotting rhymes &amp; suggesting rhymes</p> <p>Develop early writing, e.g., by writing shopping lists.</p> | <p>Know the last number reached when counting objects tells you how many</p> <p>Use fingers to represent numbers up to 5.</p> <p>Link numerals and amounts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Begin to develop stories using small work equipment.</p> <p>Join materials &amp; explore textures.</p> <p>Draw with more detail.</p> <p>Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person.</p> <p>Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas</p>  | <p>Talk about what they see.</p> <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</p> <p>Explore and talk about the different forces they feel.</p>           |
| <p><b>Summer 1</b></p> <p>There's a Bug at the Bottom of my Garden.</p> <p>Caterpillars</p> <p><b>Visits/visitors</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Spring</p> <p>Mini Beasts</p> <p>Growth and Change</p> <p>Life Cycles</p> <p>Farm animals</p> | <p>Know a selection of rhymes &amp; stories &amp; be able to talk about these</p>                                                                                                        | <p>Consolidate physical skills.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Talk to others to negotiate and solve conflicts.</p> <p>Talk about how they are feeling using words like "happy", "sad", "angry" or "worried"</p>                                      | <p>Focus Texts -</p> <p>Hungry Caterpillar</p> <p>Ben Plants a Butterfly Garden</p> <p>Sam Plants a Sunflower</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Represent numbers with marks &amp; symbols</p> <p>Solve mathematical problems with numbers up to 5</p> <p>Use language "more than" "fewer than" to describe</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Make imaginative small worlds using blocks &amp; construction kits.</p> <p>Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.</p> <p>Respond to what they have</p>                                                                                                      | <p>Plant seeds and care for growing plants.</p> <p>Show care and respect for the natural environment and living things.</p> <p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a</p> |

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| <p>Little Zoo to You</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>Mary, Mary Quiet Contrary</p> <p>Baa, Baa Black Sheep</p> <p>There’s a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf</p>                                                                                                                              |                                                                  |                                                                                                        |                                     |                                                                                      | <p>Superworm</p> <p>Bumble Bear</p> <p>Jaspers Beanstalk</p> <p>Reading / writing -</p> <p>Name the various parts of a book</p> <p>Recognise words with the same initial sound.</p> <p>Write some or all of their name.</p>                                                                                                        | <p>quantities.</p> <p>Talk about patterns around them.</p> <p>Extend a create patterns (ABAB)</p> <p>Notice &amp; correct a mistake in a repeating pattern</p> <p>Begin to describe a sequence of events using “first” “then” etc.</p>                                                                                                                                                             | <p>heard, expressing thoughts &amp; feelings.</p> <p>Sing the melodic shape of familiar songs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>plant and an animal.</p> <p>Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences.</p>                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Summer 2</b></p> <p>Title Sandy Toes and the Sun on my Nose.</p> <p>Beach role play,</p> <p>Ice Cream.</p> <p><b>Visits/visitors</b></p> <p>Ice -Cream van</p> <p><b>Nursery Rhymes</b></p> <p>Humpty Dumpty</p> <p>Little Miss Muffet</p> <p>We’re All Going on a Summer Holiday</p> | <p>The seaside</p> <p>Sea creatures</p> <p>Changes in Summer</p> | <p>Be able to express their point of view &amp; debate when they disagree with an adult or friend.</p> | <p>Consolidate physical skills.</p> | <p>Understand how others may be feeling.</p> <p>Consolidation of all statements.</p> | <p>Focus Texts -</p> <p>Billy’s Bucket.</p> <p>What the Ladybird Heard at the Seaside</p> <p>There’s no such thing as a Mermaid</p> <p>Sharing a Shell</p> <p>There’s A Unicorn in Your Book</p> <p>Name the various parts of a book</p> <p>Recognise words with the same initial sound.</p> <p>Write some or all their names.</p> | <p>Represent numbers with marks &amp; symbols</p> <p>Solve mathematical problems with numbers up to 5</p> <p>Use language “more than” “fewer than” to describe quantities.</p> <p>Talk about patterns around them.</p> <p>Extend a create patterns (ABAB)</p> <p>Notice &amp; correct a mistake in a repeating pattern</p> <p>Begin to describe a sequence of events using “first” “then” etc.</p> | <p>Make imaginative small worlds using blocks &amp; construction kits.</p> <p>Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.</p> <p>Respond to what they have heard, expressing thoughts &amp; feelings.</p> <p>Sing the melodic shape of familiar songs.</p> | <p>Show care and respect for the natural environment and living things.</p> <p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</p> <p>Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences.</p> |