

# NURSERY CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

A language-rich environment is central to the nursery curriculum. Children are encouraged to listen attentively, express themselves clearly, and engage in back-and-forth conversations. They will develop their communication and language further by engaging in storytelling, singing and role play. The children will have quality Interactions with adults where they can discuss and ask questions based on their own individual interests. We also have short carpet sessions to promote the development of speaking and listening, where Teachers model taking turns when speaking, active listening and offer a rich vocabulary to extend children's language.



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through offering a nurturing environment the children will work on building key relationships with the adults and the other children. They will begin to develop friendships through play based learning and build a strong sense of self, belonging and confidence. We will also be establishing daily routines and understand our school expectations as well as exploring our feelings and the emotions that accompany them.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children are given daily opportunities to move freely and confidently in both indoor and outdoor environments, helping to develop coordination, balance, and spatial awareness. Activities such as climbing, running, jumping, and riding tricycles promote large muscle development, while threading, mark-making, cutting, and building with small blocks support fine motor control and hand-eye coordination. Through these experiences, children begin to understand how to care for their bodies, learn about healthy habits, and develop the physical confidence needed to explore and engage fully in their environment. The children also take part in daily gross motor sessions where they practise specific skills.



## LITERACY

This term in Literacy we will begin help the children to foster a love of books through quality storytelling. Each week there will be a focus story which will be read daily. This will enable the children to become familiar with the story and offer them the opportunity to retell it in their own way, as well as being able to discuss the story in more depth. They are also encouraged to handle books with care and share their favourite stories from home. Each week your child will also bring home a shared reader book for you to read to them. We also include daily Nursery rhyme time into our routine which will further enhance their vocabulary.



## MATHEMATICS

Children explore numbers, shapes, patterns, and measures in meaningful contexts, such as counting during routines, sorting objects, and comparing sizes in their environment. They begin to recognise numbers, understand one-to-one correspondence, and use mathematical language to describe quantity, size, position, and time. Activities like building with blocks, playing with puzzles, and exploring sand and water provide opportunities to develop problem-solving skills and spatial awareness. Through songs, rhymes, and interactive games, children build a strong foundation for future mathematical learning in a fun and engaging way.



## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Children begin to explore the world around them through seasonal changes and their own personal experiences. They are encouraged to talk about themselves, their families, and their daily routines, helping them to build a sense of identity and belonging. Through nature walks and outdoor play, children observe the signs of autumn—such as falling leaves, changes in weather, and harvest time—developing early scientific skills like noticing, questioning, and comparing. Festivals and celebrations such as Harvest, Diwali, and Christmas are explored to introduce children to different cultures and traditions. Children also begin using simple technology, like interactive whiteboards or listening stations, to support storytelling and learning. These experiences foster curiosity, observation, and an early understanding of the diverse world they live in.



## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

The children will begin experimenting with colour, texture, and shape through painting, collage, drawing, and model-making using autumnal materials like leaves, conkers, and natural objects. Music and movement are a key focus, with children enjoying singing seasonal songs, exploring instruments, and moving rhythmically to music. Imaginative play is supported through role play, such as our home corner, where the children will begin to develop storytelling skills and take on different roles. These creative experiences will help build confidence, self-expression, and early artistic awareness.

# RECEPTION CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

The children will develop speaking, listening, and understanding skills in a language-rich environment. They are supported to express themselves clearly, listen to one another and follow instructions through everyday routines, stories, songs, and structured group times. They are encouraged to share their ideas, experiences, and feelings using full sentences and to ask and answer questions with increasing confidence. Storytime and role play provide key opportunities to build vocabulary and support imaginative thinking. Through conversations with adults and peers, children learn to take turns in discussions, listen attentively, and use language to negotiate and collaborate.



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In PSED the children will settle into the school environment, build positive relationships, and develop a strong sense of belonging. They will learn to follow daily routines, understand classroom expectations and begin to manage their own needs with increasing independence. Through circle time, role play, and group activities, they explore emotions, learn to recognise how others may be feeling, and begin developing empathy. Children are encouraged to share, take turns, and resolve simple conflicts with support. This term also focuses on building confidence and resilience as children take on new challenges.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children participate in a variety of activities such as outdoor play, obstacle courses, and ball games to enhance their balance, agility, and spatial awareness as well as weekly PE sessions. Fine motor skills are supported through activities like threading, cutting, drawing, and early writing tasks to build hand strength and dexterity. Children are also encouraged to develop independence in managing their own personal care, including dressing and hygiene routines. These experiences lay the foundation for healthy habits and the physical skills needed for everyday activities and future learning.



## LITERACY

This term we will be developing early reading and writing skills. The children will explore a variety of stories through our weekly focused text, learning new vocabulary and applying it to their play based learning. We will also introduce phonics, where children will learn individual sounds in order to blend those sounds together to read and write simple words. Our handwriting programme, Kinetic letters, will help children develop fine motor control and confidence in forming letters and writing their own names.



## MATHEMATICS

We will be focusing on developing children's understanding of number, shape, space and measure through practical, hands-on activities using concrete objects, songs, and number games. They begin to understand the concepts of more and less, compare quantities, and explore one-to-one correspondence, as well as develop their skills in subitising. Shape and pattern are introduced through everyday play, construction, and creative activities, helping children to recognise and describe simple 2D shapes and create repeating patterns. Children also explore measures such as length, weight, and capacity through water play, cooking, and outdoor learning.



## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

This area of learning will focus on encouraging children's curiosity about themselves, others and the world around them. Children explore seasonal changes, such as the signs of autumn, through nature walks and outdoor observations. They learn about themselves and their families, sharing personal experiences and recognising similarities and differences between people and cultures. Celebrations such as Harvest, Diwali, and Christmas provide opportunities to learn about different traditions and beliefs. Children begin to explore simple scientific concepts through hands-on activities like planting, cooking and investigating natural materials.



## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

The children will explore their creativity through a wide range of materials, tools, and techniques, experimenting with colour, texture and form through painting, drawing, collage, and model-making inspired by the season of Autumn and their own individual interests. Each week the children will take part in a music session led by Durham music service where they will explore a variety of instruments and learn a number of new songs. The role play and creative areas are enriched with opportunities for children to take on different roles and develop narratives in their play helping to nurture imagination, self-expression and confidence in sharing their ideas with others. For example, making a prop to support their role play.