

Spring Curriculum Overview Nursery 2026

Winter Wonderland ~ Winter Birds and Snuggly Bugs




Our main focus during the Spring term will be Understanding of the World, which covers science, history, and geography. The theme for the first half of the term will be Winter Wonderland, with an emphasis on Winter Birds and Snuggly Bugs.

Children will have plenty of opportunities to explore their environment first-hand, investigating frost, ice, and snow whenever possible, and developing a deeper understanding of seasonal changes. We will also learn about cold places around the world, comparing these landscapes to where we live. This will naturally lead into discussions about the impact of climate change on both the environment and wildlife in the summer term.

As part of our learning, we will be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, which ties in perfectly with our exploration of how birds and animals adapt to survive the winter months.

Prime Areas of Learning




These three areas are the core aspects of early education, life long skills that underpin all other areas of learning

 Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)	 Communication, Language & Literacy (CLL)	 Physical Development (PD)
<p>Children will continue to develop sharing and turn taking skills over the coming weeks. They will also be encouraged to negotiate with each other when playing, being supported by an adult when necessary.</p> <p>Developing self-regulation to deal with emotions, behaving appropriately within boundaries and understanding that our actions and words can sometimes affect others, are skills which are supported through modelled behaviour, stories and most importantly through discussions and explanations. This then supports individuals with learning how to manage and resolve their own difficulties.</p> <p>Children will continue to be empowered to be independent to make informed choices and decisions.</p> <p>Jigsaw: Dreams and Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate. Give focused attention to what an adult says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. <p>Being and keeping healthy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children learn about their bodies: the names of some key parts. They will find out ways to keep their bodies healthy though exercise and that some foods are healthier than others. Develop a greater understanding of the importance of personal hygiene such as hand washing. 	<p>Language: As we explore the environment around us, children will be encouraged to talk about what they can see, what is happening and make links in with previous learning. We will continue to develop attention and listening skills in small and whole class group situations.</p> <p>Phonics: Daily phonics sessions will continue, where we will learn, revisit and review letters and their phonetic sound. Children will develop and consolidate skills for reading, by learning how to segment and blend words. I will continue inform you of our phonics focus each week via the weekly newsletter, along with support material for you to practice at home.</p> <p>Sharing book: Every week your child will select a book to share with you at home. This special book is part of our early years reading journey, and your child will keep it for one week to enjoy with you at home. Sharing books together is a wonderful way to build a love of reading, spark imagination, and develop important language and listening skills.</p> <p>Writing: Stages for Preparing Children for Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Writing, Patterns: <p>We will begin with simple strokes: vertical lines, horizontal lines, circles, zigzags, and curves. Use large surfaces first (e.g., whiteboards, sand trays) before moving to paper.</p>	<p>Through planned learning opportunities this half term your child will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take part in weekly PE sessions Continue to build strength, stamina, balance, co-ordination and dexterity through a range of large and small movements which they can control. Improve and refine their control and manipulation of a variety of tools, particularly holding a pencil correctly. Instill a sense of confidence in their own physical abilities, enabling them to negotiate spaces safely. Learn how to make decisions and choices that will keep them healthy and safe. Learn how to use a knife and fork effectively to cut up food during lunch. Become more independent in making own choices and staying for longer periods of time at an activity. Secure dressing skills by putting on own coats and beginning to fasten them. Put on and take off own shoes for forest school.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They talk about hand washing and why it is important. • Staying safe through Clever Never Goes – replacing outdated ‘Stranger danger’. <p>British values: As part of our British Values, this term we will be continuing to support children to develop good self-help skills and table manners within the setting. You can help at home by encouraging your child to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more independent with taking off and putting on their shoes and coat. • Sit at the table together and use a knife and fork correctly. • Practice basic table manners to support everyday social interactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Motor Development Activities like threading beads, using playdough, and finger painting strengthen hand muscles. Encourage pinching and grasping exercises for pencil control. • Grip and Posture Teach correct pencil grip early (tripod grip). Ensure proper seating posture: feet flat, table at elbow height. • Transition to Letter Shapes Once patterns are mastered, introduce letters starting with those that use similar strokes (e.g., letters with straight lines before curves). Use tracing and guided writing before independent writing. Most importantly, we will make handwriting fun! 	
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Specific Areas of Learning

These areas of learning develop through learning the skills gained in the Prime Areas of Learning

 <p>Maths (M)</p>	 <p>Understanding the World (UW)</p>	 <p>Expressive Art & Design (EA&D)</p>
<p>By providing daily opportunities for children to practice, rehearse and apply mathematical knowledge and skills, children will begin to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a deeper understanding of subitising 1-6 (recognising a number of objects without counting them). • Explore shapes in greater depth, looking at basic flat 2d shapes and introducing 3D shapes. • Learn 2D shape names and the properties of these shapes and be able to talk about them using terms such as sides, corners etc. • Explore the composition of a number, beginning to discover the many ways that a number can be made e.g this week we have been looking at the composition of 3. We found out that 3 can be made up of 3 and 0, 2 and 1, 1, 1 and 1. Through practical experiences, children can have fun with numbers, whilst gaining a deeper understanding of what a number is. 	<p>The Natural World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the environment around us to discover about seasonal change. • What is winter? What does it look like? • Discover the properties of snow, ice, frost through first-hand experience where possible. • Birds and animals in winter; hibernation, feeding birds in winter. • Take part in the Big School’s Birdwatch 2026. <p>History/Geography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold places in the world. Where are they, what do they like look? • Talk about personal experiences that have already happened such as places visited, birthdays and other celebrations etc. 	<p>Art: During this half term we will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ‘cold colours’ through various art and creative experiences. • Create a winter collage by combining different materials • Make cardboard tube garden birds • Explore the works of Andy Goldsworthy to create our own ice sculptures <p>Music: Explore music around the world.</p>

GENERAL REMINDERS:

Packed lunches- Please do not add any other items other than your child's lunch inside their lunch bag. As a safety precaution, please ensure grapes, olives, cherry tomatoes and any other fruits or vegetables deemed as being a choking hazard, are cut in half or smaller pieces. You do not need to send a water bottle. As a school we promote healthy eating and ask that no chocolate or sweets are included in a lunch and that one treat be suffice. **Please do not send any foodstuffs containing nuts.**

No additional foods should be sent into school for your child to eat during the session.

PE: WEDNESDAY Your child will need to come to Nursery dressed in their winter PE kit which comprises of a red t-shirt, black zip up sports top, black pull on joggers and Velcro trainers. **Please note that footwear is trainer's not casual canvas or PE pumps and no laces please.**

Forest school – This will resume on Wednesday 14th January. Please ensure full kit is sent in following previous instruction. Hats and gloves will also be required. Everything needs to be clearly named.

Clothing - Please name and add a big loop on **All** jumpers, cardigans and coats. Shoes also need naming.

Book bag: Bring a book bag every-day. Please ensure bags are not full of items from home such as toys and not laden with keyrings. The bulkiness makes it more difficult to fit bags inside our book bag box.

Dates for your Diary:

14th January – Outdoor Learning resumes in forest area

6th February – NSPCC Number Day

9th-15th February – Children's Mental Health Week 'This is my place'

10th February – Safer Internet Day

12th February – Spring Wellbeing Day

10th – 13th February – Big Schools Birdwatch will take place within our outdoor classroom

13th February - School closes for half term

27th February – International Polar Bear Day

23rd February – Parent's Evening 3.40pm-6.00pm (online)

2nd March – Parent's Evening 3.40pm-6.00pm (online)

5th March – World Book Day

6th – 15th March British Science Week 'Curiosity: What's your question?'

14th March – International Math's Day

20th March World Oral Health Day 'A Happy Mouth is a Happy Body'

20th March – Red Nose Day

23rd March – Open Evening 3.30-5.30 NO STAR CLUB

27th March – End of term - School closes for Easter

19th May – Maypole Evening

20th May – Maypole Evening (Reserve date)

Staying in Touch:

If you have any questions or query about your child you can contact me by:

- At the end of the day at pick up
- Leave a phone message with the office which will be returned at the end of the school day
- Make an appointment through the school office
- Email the school office (not teacher email)

Please do not use my teacher email or Teams to contact me. Teacher emails and Teams are not intended to be used to communicate with parents as they are not regularly checked. Teachers workload is very high and they are not expected to answer correspondence during their working day or outside their working hours.

You may wish to phone or email the school office and your message will be passed on and responded to at the end of the school day.

Please ensure changes to star club are communicated to the school office.

If your child is to be collected by someone different please inform at drop off and send a note. If you have a regular pattern of collection arrangements please detail these in a note and we will keep this information for future reference.