

# Nursery Curriculum Overview

## Spring term 2026

In Nursery we review our planning regularly, in order to respond to the current needs of specific groups of children, as well as incorporating their ideas and interests as part of 'in the moment' planning.

This curriculum overview describes broadly what skills the children will be learning during the spring term 2026.

We will be sending some home learning activities home via Tapestry. The activities we send will help to promote talk between you and your child. Talk is an essential part of Early Years education and developing and improving language is so important.

We will be extending the Nursery library to offer parents the chance to change books during the week. If your child does not have a bookbag, please order one, so your child can be part of this. We expect that all books taken home will be returned to the school in the same condition.

We appreciate the support you have given with teaching your child how to put on their coat. This has made a huge difference, and it is good to see how proud the children are now that they are a bit more independent! We are now asking for your help in teaching your child how to do up their zip and put on gloves without adult help. Mittens may be better for your child if they really struggle with gloves – cold hands stop children enjoying outside play.

### Skills we will be covering this term, indoors and outdoors

#### Characteristics of effective learning

We will be encouraging the children to:

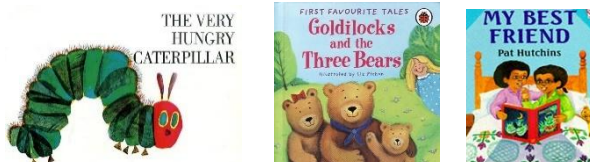
- ★ Make independent choices as they access a widening range of resources.
- ★ Plan and think ahead about how they will explore or play with objects.
- ★ Keep on trying when trying out a new skill / activity.
- ★ Create stories as they work in small world settings / role play.
- ★ Feel confident about having and using their own ideas.



## Communication and Language

Children hear lots of stories and rhymes in nursery, we read to the children in many ways: 1 to 1, in small groups and in larger groups at the end of each session. Storytelling is important as it helps children to develop good listening and attention skills, whilst also improving and extending their vocabulary.

You can help develop comprehension skills at home by asking your child questions about events they have taken part in. Can they recall who they visited at the weekend? Do they remember what they ate for breakfast or watched on TV?



As you share stories, comment on what you see in the pictures and ask questions such as 'I wonder what will happen next? What would you do? Who was in that story?'

Give your child plenty of time to answer, it can take children longer to process a question and think of an answer.

We will be working on the following: ONGOING / REVISITING

- ❖ Developing children's vocabulary during topic and outdoor sessions.
- ❖ Use longer phrases and sentences during back-and-forth conversations and when describing their work to an adult.
- ❖ Recall what they have done earlier and name a character in a simple story.
- ❖ Using question words such as 'who', 'where', 'why', 'how'

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Personal, Social and Emotional development is a hugely important part of children's lives.

This term we will be working on helping children to become even more independent when playing and working with other children. We will do this in the following ways:

- ◆ Working in small groups to play games, sharing and co-operating with teammates.
- ◆ Recognising when they need to tell an adult if they are unhappy, worried or sad.
- ◆ Getting children to take on more responsibility when tidying the classroom.
- ◆ Trying out new, more challenging physical activities in the outdoor areas.
- ◆ Stand up for themselves without being aggressive towards others. We encourage children to use the phrase 'Stop, I don't like that.'
- ◆ Begin to think about what we need to do to keep healthy.

## Physical Development

Physical skills need to be practised every day to improve them. The children are very lucky to have the use of such a wonderful outdoor play area, plus the field, the treehouse and our new climbing wall, where they can be active. This enables us to plan in lots of exciting things to ensure that the 'big' movement skills such as running, jumping and climbing are well developed.

It is also important to develop the 'small or fine' motor skills by practising these daily. Mark making, using scissors, painting, playdough, finger gym – all help to develop the skills needed to be good at handwriting.

This term we will be working on the following:

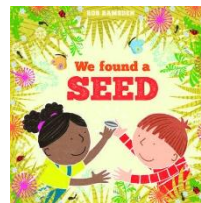
- ★ Continue to develop a wide range of movement types, showing co-ordination and balance.
- ★ Begin to join in as part of a team, following the rules of the game.
- ★ Further develop mark making skills, leading to beginning to write some letter shapes from their name when ready.
- ★ Have a go at doing up zips independently.



## Literacy

We want children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading is a crucial part of education; it is like a key to open the door to further learning.

This term we will be reading a wide range of books, fiction and non-fiction. The list of books includes well known stories such as 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Whatever Next' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

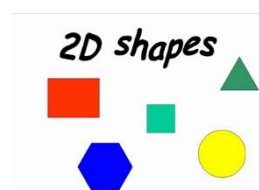


Children will use non-fiction books, learning how these help us to find out about certain things, such as: Animals in cold places, The Weather and How things grow. This will help children to answer 'how' and 'why' questions more accurately.

Over the term we will focus on:

- ❖ Learning about the different parts of a book.
- ❖ Choose books to take home from the Nursery Library.
- ❖ Using books to help us learn about some real-life people or events, such as Chinese New Year.
- ❖ Developing a wider vocabulary linked to the books we share.
- ❖ Continue to develop phonic skills by listening for rhyme and alliteration (words beginning with the same letter e.g six silly snakes).
- ❖ Tales Toolkit (children to make up own stories using a character, setting, problem and finding a solution)

## Mathematics



It is important for children to have a strong understanding of number. Children need to be able to count but they also need to have a deeper knowledge of number. They need to show a number using their

fingers and quickly see a small group of objects without having to count them (subitising) to three then five. We want children to use maths language accurately, showing that they understand what it means. This term we will:

- Continue to develop counting and number skills with numbers to five.
- Recognising numbers to 3 and then 5
- Continue to teach maths vocabulary such as more / fewer / same/ give/altogether.
- Introduce vocabulary connected to length and height.
- Learn about 2D shapes and their properties and pattern.
- Positional language such as 'under', 'over', 'in', 'on' and 'behind'

## The World



We want the children to be able to make sense of the physical world and their community. We want to teach them the vocabulary to help describe what they see around them: the environment, the weather and the people. We are lucky to live in a diverse community and it is important for the children to be able to talk about their culture and respect other cultures.

As part of our work this term, we will focus on the following:

- Environmental features such as weather and climate and how we need to look after living things. Looking at the differences between Colindale and other places around the world.
- Cultural events where we can learn something new about a different community, such as Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Eid.
- Our own history and how we have changed from babies, to toddlers, to children as we celebrate birthdays.
- Describe what they see happening as they explore various materials.

## Expressive Arts and Design



The development of children's artistic skills also helps to develop their imagination and creativity. Children need regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of resources when painting, making models and creating small world scenes.

This term, we will be looking at the work done by different artists including Ruba Salameh, from the Middle East. She creates works using different shapes and lines.

This term we are moving on to use a wider range of resources and skills.

- Creating more complex small world stories based around their own experiences of books and life through 'Tales Toolkit'.
- Develop their own ideas and choose the materials they need.
- Begin to draw pictures which closely represent the object.
- Explore different types of painting resources.
- Learning new songs and actions.

## **Other Information**

- Continue to log on to your child's Tapestry online journal to see their learning progress at school.
- Regularly check the school website for information such as school newsletters, events etc.  
<https://www.colindale.barnet.sch.uk/news/>
- Read the Arbor messages sent to you from the school, as these contain important information. If you are not receiving Arbor messages, please inform the school office asap.
- Remember, less TV/tablet time and more talking time!

We are looking forward to having a productive and enjoyable term with you and your child.  
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **The Nursery Team**

**Mrs Walsh (Class Teacher)**  
**Mrs Warren & Mrs Patel (Nursery Nurses)**  
**Mrs Teodoro Ramos (Teaching Assistant)**  
**Mrs Hurn (EYFS leader)**