

# Nursery Curriculum Overview

## Summer term 2026



In Nursery we plan our curriculum to respond to the current needs and interests of specific groups of children, as well as incorporating 'in the moment' planning, which is when we react to things children do or say during the week.

This curriculum overview describes broadly what skills the children will be learning during the summer term 2026, the final term in nursery.

Our Library has been successful so far. Many children already have their book bags and are excited about taking a book home from school. Please do get a book bag if you haven't already done so. Reading together is so important, and we would like all children to take home library books each week.

During summer term 2, we will start to prepare nursery children for the transition to Reception. If your child has a place in Colindale Reception, we will hold a parent information meeting in June where you and your child will have the chance to meet their new teachers. Children will also spend some time in their new classrooms in July. If your child is leaving us for a new school, your new school will make arrangements for you.

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

#### Characteristics of effective learning

We will be encouraging the children to:

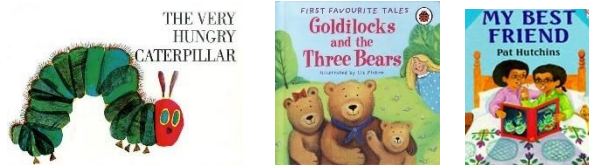
- ★ Make independent choices as they access a widening range of resources.
- ★ Plan and think ahead about how they will use their chosen resources – whether it is constructing a model or using the small world resources imaginatively.
- ★ Persist when trying out a new activity or learning a new skill.
- ★ Create stories and tales as they use Tales Toolkit, small world settings, or take on a role as they play in provision and during topic-based play.
- ★ Feel confident about using and explaining 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. Each week we have a focus story, which we read every day in smaller groups. This has helped to improve children's book and story knowledge and recall. 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?' How do they feel now?

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

We will continue to work on the following:

- ❖ Developing children's vocabulary during topic work 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 heard or seen in a simple story.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Nursery Worry Monster



Personal, Social and Emotional development affects everything a child does – if they are not happy, they will find it difficult to learn new things. We encourage children to share their feelings and this term we will make more use of our Worry Monster – children can tell her ANYTHING that is worrying them.

We will also continue to work on helping children to become even more independent when playing and working with other children. We will do this in the following ways:

- ◆ Setting up and helping to run small group games, sharing and co-operating with teammates.
- ◆ Recognising when they need to tell an adult/worry monster if they are unhappy, worried or sad.
- ◆ Getting children to take on roles within nursery, as part of our work on 'People who help us'
- ◆ Trying out new, more challenging physical activities in the outdoor areas.
- ◆ Stand up for themselves without stopping others having their rights.
- ◆ Explain how we can stay healthy – food and exercise choices.

## Physical Development

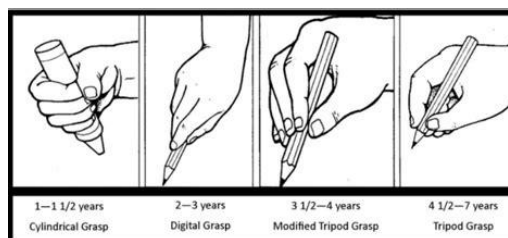


Nursery children are very lucky to have the use of such a wonderful outdoor play area, along with the Trim Trail, the field, the treehouse and climbing wall, where they can be active and learn new skills. This enables us to plan in lots of exciting things to ensure that the ‘big’ movement skills such as running, jumping and climbing are well developed. Over this term we will also focus on learning the skills needed for sports day – it’s not easy to run and carry an egg on a spoon!

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. Many children are now beginning to have a go at letter formation. If you received a name card for your child along with our Colindale handwriting blurb, please practise at home. If it is lost or you have not yet received a name card, please speak to a member of staff.

This term we will be working on the following:

- ★ Continue to develop a wide range of movement types, showing co-ordination, balance and control as they negotiate space using their bodies or wheeled vehicles.
- ★ Begin to join in as part of a team, following and explaining the rules of the game or activity.
- ★ Further develop mark making skills, leading to beginning to write a wider range of letter shapes and their name.



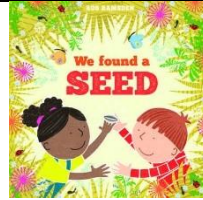
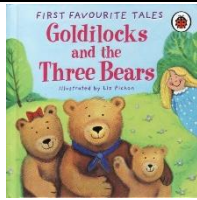
We need to make sure that every child uses the same hand every time they write – LEFT or RIGHT, both are good. Please don’t make your child use their right hand if they prefer the left hand. If they are still swapping hands, they are not yet ready to do formal writing. Pencil grip and control is something we will also work on.

## Literacy

We have introduced the children to a storytelling kit to the children in Nursery classes. This is called ‘Tales Toolkit’ and it helps children tell stories using their ideas to match the pictures you can see below, plus simple props. We will be continuing to develop this through the Summer term.



**Tales Toolkit: Character, Setting, Problem, Solution**



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. Children will use non-fiction books, learning how these help us to find out about certain things, such as: Minibeasts, The Weather and How Things Grow. This will help children to find the answers to 'how' and 'why' questions.

Over the term we will focus on:

- ❖ Learning about the different parts of a book.
- ❖ Finding out how fiction and non-fiction books differ.
- ❖ Explaining WHY we like a certain book or story.
- ❖ Using books to help us learn about some real-life people or events, such as Eid/ other countries.
- ❖ Developing a wider vocabulary linked to specific topic books.
- ❖ Continue to develop phonic skills by recognising initial sounds, blending and segmenting letter sounds.

## 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. 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 to 10.
- Teach maths vocabulary such as more / fewer / same / equal / less/ how many altogether? / how many left? Etc
- Introduce routes and directional language 'next to' 'behind' 'around' 'forwards/ backwards' etc
- Consolidate prepositional language over, under, through, in, on
- Introduce and use the vocabulary connected to measurement, shape, and pattern.
- Learn about sorting – sorting items in different ways.

## 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 talk

about their culture and show respect for other cultures. This is an important part of our ethos as a Rights Respecting School.

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

- Environmental features such as weather and climate
- Know there are different countries in the world and talk about them
- How we need to look after living things.
- How to ensure things we plant continue to grow and thrive.
- Becoming aware of others as part of our work on 'People who help us' - those who help us at home, school and in the wider community.
- Learning about different cultures and thinking about some other countries.

## Expressive Arts and Design



Developing imagination and creativity is something all children need to do. Regular opportunities to engage with the arts enables children to explore and play out their ideas and emotions.

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 and linked to topic themes, alongside story making using Tales Toolkit ideas.
- Develop their own ideas and choose the materials they need.
- Begin to draw/paint pictures which closely represent the object.
- Explore a wider range of art resources, such as charcoal and oil pastels.
- Sing entire songs, learning an increasing number of songs over the term.
- Begin to learn about musical speed, volume and pitch.

## Other Information

### Warmer weather:

**On hot, sunny days, please remember to apply sun cream to your child before coming to nursery. They will also need a sun hat, like those shown:**



- 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/>

- 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)**