

Curriculum overview – Nursery -Summer 2

Literacy

This term Nursery will be supported to develop early language and literacy skills through engaging, topic-based experiences. The focus is on using new vocabulary in conversation, developing oral blending skills, and beginning to record sounds in sequence. We will focus on Using new vocabulary in conversations and play , developing oral blending skills (hearing and joining sounds to make simple words) and beginning to record sounds in sequence (early writing and phonics awareness). Children will be introduced to rich vocabulary linked to the seaside such as *wave, tide, shell, sand, shore, driftwood, and crab*. Adults will model these words in conversation and encourage children to use them during beach-themed play and exploration. Oral blending will be developed through fun listening games such as “sound the beach word,” where children hear simple CVC words linked to the topic (e.g. s-u-n, c-a-p) and blend them together. Children will also begin to record sounds in sequence by labelling beach pictures or drawing and attempting simple phonetic spellings in sand or mark-making trays.

Mathematics

The focus this term is on using key mathematical language such as *total* and *altogether*, solving problems with numbers up to 5, and exploring early concepts of pattern, shape, space, and measure. We continue to follow the White Rose Maths approach ensuring steady, progressive development over the year. Children will use counting skills to solve simple problems involving sea creatures up to 5, for example in our under the sea topic we will look at “How many fish are there altogether?” or “If one swims away, how many are left?” Key vocabulary will be reinforced in meaningful contexts .Patterns will be explored through repeating sequences of sea creatures or colours in underwater scenes. Shape recognition will be developed through sea-themed materials such as starfish, circles (bubbles), and curved shapes (waves). Children will explore space and measure through filling underwater containers, comparing sizes of shells, and discussing capacity during water play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Across all topics, children will move from supported participation in group activities towards increased independence in: Sustaining attention during circle time Making purposeful choices about resources engaging confidently in peer interaction and collaborative play . Children will develop early group learning behaviours through calming, sensory-based beach experiences. Circle time will include “listening to the waves” mindfulness activities, supporting attention and emotional regulation. Children will be encouraged to choose from natural materials such as shells, sand tools, and water trays to support independent exploration. Social confidence will be built through collaborative sand play, such as building shared sandcastles and taking turns with equipment.

Beaches
Under the Sea
Teddy bears
Pirates/ Mermaids

Communication and Language

This term children will be supported to develop key communication and language skills through meaningful, play-based experiences. The focus is on responding appropriately during conversations and using talk to organise and extend their play. We will focus around responding appropriately during conversations (listening, taking turns, staying on topic, and giving relevant replies. We will use talk to organise play (planning, negotiating roles, explaining ideas, and solving problems with peers).For example, in our under the sea topic children will develop conversational skills through imaginative underwater storytelling and small world play. They will be supported to respond appropriately to peers’ ideas during group discussions about sea creatures and ocean adventures. Language will be used purposefully to organise play, for example deciding who will be a diver, fish, or sea explorer, and agreeing on shared storylines in role play scenarios. Adults will model sentence structures to support clarity and turn-taking in conversation. In our beaches topic, Children will be encouraged to engage in simple conversations during beach-themed activities such as sand and water play. Adults will model and scaffold appropriate responses, helping children to listen and reply to peers’ ideas (e.g. “What shall we build?” “I think we should add a moat”). Children will use talk to organise collaborative play.

Physical Development

- This term Nursery will learn to follow simple instructions in physical activities (e.g. races and obstacle courses) . We learn to run with control, speed, and coordination (early athletics skills) Developing fine motor control to form familiar letter sounds and their names and independence in using a knife and fork and one handed tools. For example, Children will take part in gentle, structured physical games such as “teddy bear races” and obstacle courses designed to support confidence in movement, following simple instructions step-by-step. Activities will be adapted to ensure all children can participate at their own level of physical development. In teddy bear picnic role play, children will practise using a knife and fork during pretend or real snack preparation, supporting independence, hand control, and self-care skills. Children will take part in imaginative movement activities such as “ocean obstacle courses,” where they follow simple instructions like jumping over rocks or moving like sea creatures. These activities will develop coordination, balance, and ability to listen and respond .

Expressive Art and Design

The focus is on exploring colour mixing and sharing likes and dislikes about music, helping children to build confidence in expressing ideas and preferences through art and sound. Children will explore colour mixing by creating seaside scenes using paint, sand, and collage materials. They will experiment with blending colours to make sea blues, sandy tones, and sunset colours, noticing how colours change when mixed. In music activities, children will listen to beach-inspired sounds such as waves and calming seaside music, sharing simple responses like “I like it because it is calm” or “I don’t like it because it is loud.” Children will mix colours to create underwater scenes, experimenting with blues, greens, purples, and turquoises to represent the ocean. They will explore how colours change when blended, creating sea creatures and coral reefs. In music, children will listen to ocean-themed soundscapes and underwater-inspired music, encouraged to share opinions about what they hear using simple vocabulary to express preference and emotion.

Understanding the World

The focus is on exploring changes over time, the Summer season, understanding how people help us, and investigating simple forces such as push, pull, and movement through meaningful hands-on experiences.. For example whilst exploring under the sea we will explore how living things and environments change over time by looking at sea life such as tadpoles growing, shells changing appearance, and seasonal changes in ocean environments. They will begin to notice simple differences and talk about what they can see. Children will learn about people who help us in underwater and seaside contexts, such as divers, marine biologists, lifeguards, and rescue workers, understanding how they keep people and animals safe. Simple forces will be explored through water play investigations, such as observing how objects float, sink, or move in water. Children will experiment with pushing and pulling toy sea creatures and boats, noticing how movement changes depending on force.