

# Nursery 2025/2026

## Curriculum Overview Summer Term 2026

### Our Learning



The Nursery curriculum is based on the [Early Years Framework](#) and we use the curriculum guidance, '[Development Matters](#),' to support delivery of this curriculum.

At Hillingdon Primary School, we fully embrace the four guiding principles from the EYFS Framework, which shape the EYFS curriculum:

- All children are **unique** and constantly learning. They should be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive relationships** encourage children to be strong and independent.
- **Enabling environments**, in which children's experiences meet their individual needs and interests, help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.**

The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

#### Characteristics of effective learning:

In planning and guiding what children learn, the 'Characteristics of effective teaching and learning' are considered by staff when delivering our curriculum:

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements;
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

#### The seven areas of learning and development

The framework sets out the three prime areas of learning that underpin everything in the early years:

- communication and language;
- physical development;
- personal, social and emotional development.

The Framework also sets out the four specific areas of learning, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world;
- expressive arts and design.

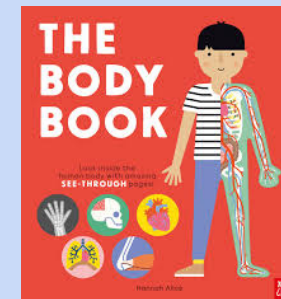
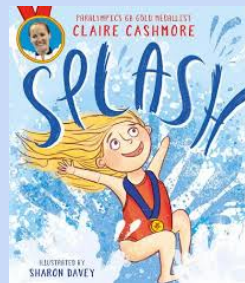
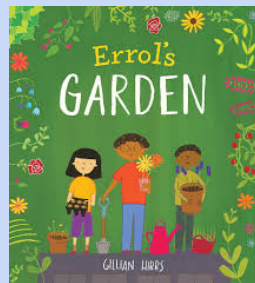
Please see below further information about what children in Nursery will learn to do this term.

## Curriculum Overview Summer Term - Nursery

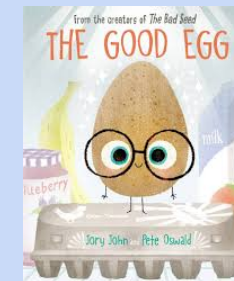
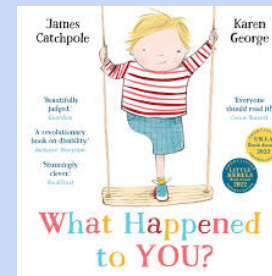
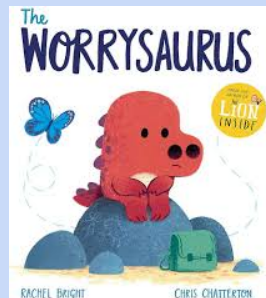
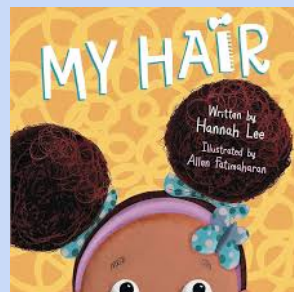
During the Summer term, children will be learning to:

### Themes for this term:

The theme for the first half term is **“Planting and Growing.”** This links with our class story books which continue to be taught as a structured story time each day following the ‘CUSP’ reading curriculum. It also links with our Personal Development theme, **“Relationships.”** This curriculum is taught through the ‘Jigsaw’ Personal Development programme. Some of the key texts are:



The theme for the second half of Summer term is **“Ready for Reception,”** which also links to our class books below and to our Personal Development theme, **“Changing Me.”**



<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p>	<p>Structured story time continues on a daily basis, where children enjoy listening to the stories listed above, with the aim that they will remember much of what happens. This encourages children to develop their vocabulary and pronunciation of words. We are now encouraging all children to answer questions about the books, using full sentences to demonstrate their understanding and learning. Children will be answering ‘who?’, ‘what?’ and ‘why?’ questions and will sequence the story to show understanding of what has happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story.</p> <p>During children’s independent play, we will continue to support the children to use longer, more complex sentences with adults using the word ‘because’ or using simple describing words (e.g. I can see a blue car) and encouraging children to role play what they can recall in the stories we have read. Children will now be encouraged to express their point of view, giving reasons for their answers and initiating conversations with adults and peers.</p>
<p><b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></p>	<p>We continue our Personal Development curriculum using the ‘Jigsaw’ programme with a lesson on the carpet each week and some follow up activities including circle time discussions and games. The first half term Jigsaw theme is <b>“Relationships.”</b> Children will learn about making friends, getting on and falling out and being the best friend we can be.</p> <p>The second half-term’s theme is <b>“Changing Me,”</b> where we will encourage children to discuss how they have grown since the start of nursery, how they will continue to change, what they find fun and what they are fearful of. We will also be celebrating the end of nursery and completing some transition activities ready for Reception.</p> <p>Children can now sit on the carpet for a sustained period of time, while listening and concentrating on what the teacher is saying. During circle time discussions, children will continue to be encouraged to speak clearly and develop their own thoughts and opinions, rather than repeat what others have said. Now children have developed a broad understanding of feelings, they will be encouraged to understand how other children and adults are feeling in the setting and what we can do to help those who need support. Children are increasingly independent and will be expected to meet their own care needs which include brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands and making healthy food choices.</p>

<b>Physical Development</b>	<p>In our outdoor environment, children are now showing confidence with the climbing equipment, using this safely and comfortably. Children are demonstrating increasing confidence with ball control by throwing, catching and kicking accurately. We will continue to develop children’s balance and coordination, encouraging them to move in a variety of ways, including skipping, hopping, standing on one leg, jumping off climbing equipment safely and taking part in running games. We will also be using a range of gardening tools safely to dig and plant various items in our garden. By the end of term, children will be expected to be able to put on their coat by themselves and do zips.</p> <p>Children will continue to develop their fine motor skills, using scissors, pens and/or pencils accurately. This will help children to form their letters and numbers correctly. Children will now be showing a dominant hand and holding a pencil correctly, being able to trace over lines and shapes more accurately.</p>
<b>Literacy</b>	<p>In Nursery, children continue to be taught to understand the five key concepts about print:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● print has meaning;</li><li>● print can have different purposes;</li><li>● we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom;</li><li>● the names of the different parts of a book;</li><li>● page sequencing.</li></ul> <p>Children will have completed a term of identifying sounds within the environment and may be ready to begin understanding letter sounds. Those that are ready will be taught to understand some letter sounds and begin formation of these letters. We will be practising how to identify words with the same initial sound, relating these to their names and other familiar words.</p> <p>All children are now encouraged to write their name using their name cards and forming the lower case letters in their names correctly. We also continue to support children to identify rhyming words in books and songs and develop a greater understanding of syllables in words, particularly their names.</p> <p>We will continue to discuss naming the different parts of a book and simple sequencing of stories using the words ‘first’, ‘next’, ‘after that’, and ‘finally’. Children are encouraged to speak in full sentences to describe what has happened in a story and read a variety of books by the same author.</p>

<p><b>Maths</b></p>	<p>We continue to work on counting and naming numbers to 5 and beyond. We will be encouraging children to practise subitising and the quick recollection of numbers to 5. We will be asking children to use the words ‘more’ and ‘less’ when discussing numbers, comparing them and solving real-life problems. For those that are ready, we will be discussing ‘one more’ and ‘one less’ than a number, introducing the maths symbols to go with these number sentences.</p> <p>We will revisit different shapes, encouraging children to describe their features and where we can see these shapes in our environment; we will also support children to create repeating patterns. We shall be revisiting positional language, encouraging children to use the words ‘under’, ‘over’, ‘through’, ‘across’, ‘in front’ and ‘behind’.</p>
<p><b>Understanding the world</b></p>	<p><b>Planting and growing</b></p> <p>In the first half term, children will be learning about plants and what they need to grow. Children will be planting their own seeds and developing an understanding of how we care for plants and our wider environment (including recycling). We will be encouraging children to bring in their own plant to look after in the nursery garden.</p> <p><b>Ready for Reception</b></p> <p>In the second half term, children will develop a deeper understanding of growing and changing and how they have changed since the start of Nursery. We will be discussing what Reception classes are like and how they are the same and different to Nursery. We shall also be learning about the season of summer and clothes relating to this season. We will find out about some different countries in the world, relating these countries to our families and holidays. We will discuss the summer holidays and the different weather in various countries.</p>
<p><b>Expressive arts and design</b></p>	<p>Children have now developed good independence in using the art resources, planning and discussing what they would like to create. We will be encouraging them to complete observational drawings and paintings of the garden and outdoor environments. We will be discussing different colours and shapes in artwork and children will be using this knowledge to create their own art pieces.</p> <p>We will continue to sing familiar songs and introduce some new songs relating to summer time and the natural world. We will be introducing the children to some new musical instruments and teaching them how to keep in time to a beat. We have introduced a weekly music lesson using SING Education which teaches us how to explore music through movement and rhythm, recalling patterns, enhancing memory and coordination.</p>