Nursery 2026/27
Curriculum Overview Autumn Term
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:

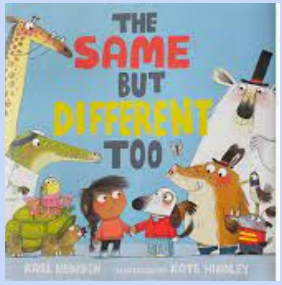
- **literacy;**
- **mathematics;**
- **understanding the world;**
- **expressive arts and design.**

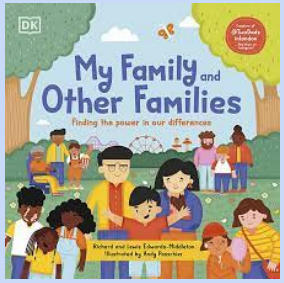
Please see below further information about what children in Nursery will learn to do this term.

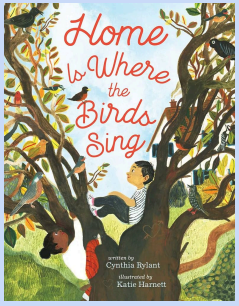
Curriculum Overview Autumn Term - Nursery

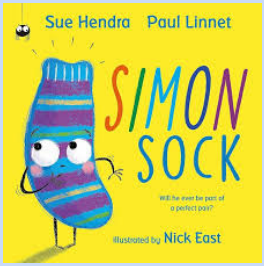
Themes for this term:

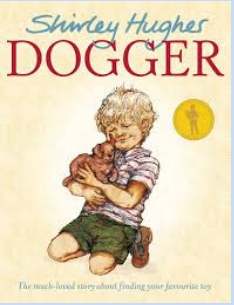
The theme for the first half term is "**What Makes Me Special**". This links with our new class story books which will be read and discussed during story time each day following the 'CUSP' reading curriculum. It also links with our personal development theme, "Being in my World." This curriculum is taught through the 'Jigsaw' personal development programme.
The key texts are:



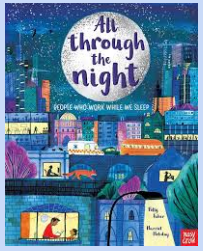


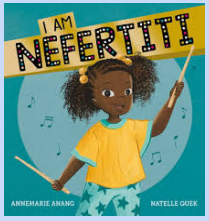


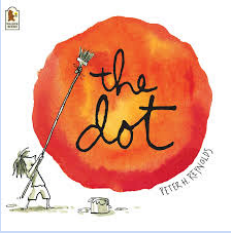


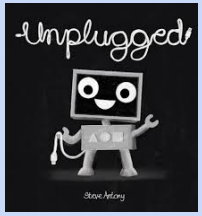


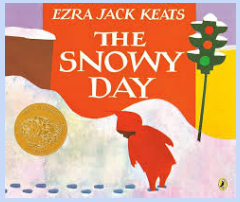
The theme for the second half of Autumn term is "**Light and Dark**," which links to our class books below and to our personal development theme, "Celebrating Difference".











Communication and Language	In the first half term we will focus on children responding to their names and simple instructions, knowing the names of the staff members and learning the names of some of the other children. We encourage children to use key words to express their needs and desires. We look forward to sharing our news about our families and what we enjoy doing with them. We shall be sharing family photos and describing who our family members are. We are introducing a structured story time where children will enjoy listening to the stories listed above, with the aim that they will remember much of what happens. This will encourage children to develop their vocabulary, pronunciation of words and begin to answer questions relating to the book. During children's independent play, we will be supporting the children to use longer sentences with adults and their peers, start conversations and use talk to describe and organise their play such as, "Let's go on a bus…you sit there… I'll be the driver."
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Our personal development curriculum is shaped by the 'Jigsaw' programme. This will involve a lesson on the carpet each week and some follow up activities. The first half term Jigsaw theme is "**Being in my World.**" Children will learn about belonging, feeling happy and sad, being kind and gentle, and what the word 'responsible' means. The second half term is "**Celebrating Difference,**" where we will discuss how we are special, what we are good at, our different families and making friends. Over the course of the term, the children will be learning to settle into routines and being away from their family for a set amount of time. When the children are happy to come into nursery independently, we encourage them to select and use activities and resources independently, but with help when needed. The children will be learning to follow the school rules and understanding why they are important. During the children's independent play, we will be working on sharing, taking turns, being patient and talking with others to solve conflicts. We will be learning a range of words to describe our feelings and recognise when we or someone else is feeling a certain way.

Physical Development	In our outdoor environment, we will be focussing on the children's gross motor skills. Working in small groups with an adult, as well as during children's independent play, we will be working on developing different movements, balancing skills, using riding equipment (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. Children will be climbing steps and stairs using alternate feet and climbing independently on climbing apparatus. We will also be using large muscle movements to wave flags, streamers, beginning to sequence patterns of movement. In the indoor and outdoor environment, children will also be developing their fine motor skills. This includes using one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. We will start to work with the children on developing a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. We expect by the end of term that all children will be confident using the toilet and washing their hands independently. We are also looking for children to be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on, doing up zips and putting on shoes and socks.
Literacy	In Nursery, children are taught to understand the five key concepts about print: • print has meaning; • print can have different purposes; • we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom; • the names of the different parts of a book; • page sequencing. Children will start to develop their vocabulary and conversation skills. They will engage in extended conversations about stories we read during our story time sessions and other books we read, learning new vocabulary along the way. The children will be mark making in the first term, taking part in activities such as drawing in vertical, horizontal and circular lines and mark making shapes. Other activities such as painting and playdough also help children develop the skills they need to start mark making and writing. We hope all children will enjoy looking at a variety of books both at home and at school. We encourage children to join the library if they have not and share books with their grown ups on a daily basis.

Maths	The first half term will be focussed on colours and counting. Children will develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising') and begin to recite numbers up to 5. We will be working on showing 'finger numbers' up to 5. Counting songs and rhymes is a great way to learn new Maths skills and we shall be taking part in these activities on a daily basis. In the second half term we will continue to focus on numbers and positional language. Children will count more accurately using 1:1 correspondence and begin to recognise numbers. They will be learning words relating to where an object is such as under, above, below and using these words rather than pointing – for example, "The bag is under the table."
Understanding the world	**What Makes Me Special** In the first half term, children will be talking about their homes, noticing that we all have different homes. We will be discussing our families and who we live with and name the different people within our family. The children are encouraged to bring in photos of their families and homes to share with others, where they can see how we are the same and how we are different. This links with our theme for the half term and our structured story time books. We shall be learning about the weather and how the season has changed from Summer to Autumn. We will learn about Autumn colours relating to our art work and what happens in the outside world when it is Autumn. **Light and Dark** In the second half term, children will learn what a celebration is, how the seasons are changing our environment and about how light and dark relate to our daily lives such as daily routine and day and night. We encourage children to discuss their own experiences of celebrations such as birthdays, religious festivals and Christmas time. We will learn about the Christmas story and be singing Christmas songs. We invite parents to share with their children their family history so that the children begin to make sense of their own life-story. We shall be discussing how we are the same in many ways, but different too, encouraging positive attitudes about the differences between people.
Expressive arts and design	Nursery children have the opportunity to go to the creative area when they choose, and select the resources they need independently. We also encourage them to take an interest in songs and dancing, noticing and listening with increasing attention to sounds. Children have the opportunity to take part in role play during their independent play, use musical instruments, small world resources, blocks and construction equipment to develop their own ideas and stories.

	In the first half term the children will create self portraits, pictures and collages of their homes, families and school. We encourage children to show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, such as happiness and sadness and will explore colour and colour-mixing. They will begin to be familiar with songs we routinely sing in the morning, at the end of the school day, when tidying up and various nursery rhymes. In the second half term, children will continue to have a number of creative activities to explore during their independent play. They will also join in with activities relating to celebrations, such as making decorations, hats and create an art gallery to celebrate our beautiful artwork.