



Area of learning- Understanding the world

Nursery

Understanding the world

The date and weather are shared and discussed daily within Nursery

Throughout the year children in nursery are beginning to understand how the seasons change as they are encouraged to notice changes in the weather and their surroundings.

Children are introduced to range of celebrations, including traditional British celebrations and those of other cultures and backgrounds.

Opportunities to care for creatures and grow plants are made available through each term, allowing them to develop their understanding of nature.

Nursery staff encourage children to talk about their families and listen to others who share their own experiences. Children begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.

Stories including different families, countries and a diverse range of people are shared within during story time or circle time. Children are given opportunities to talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.




Hands-on activities where children can use all their senses to explore natural materials are made available each term. There are opportunities to explore materials and gain understanding of how these may change through cause and effect.




Children are able to explore our outdoor area daily. They also have access to a more natural environment each week during 'Treemendous Thursdays' where holistic learning is encouraged.

Key Skills

Repeat actions that have an effect.

- Explore materials with different properties.
- Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
- Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.
- Make connections between the features of their family and other families.
- Notice differences between people.

Term/ Topic	Key Vocabulary	Skills/Knowledge/Enquiry
<p>Autumn 1</p> <p>Traditional tales</p> 	<p>Kind, friendly, caring, playing, sharing, soft, crunchy, squishy, hard, lumpy, spices mixing, stirring, changing, making, pouring, heat, feeding, cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring cereal, different textures. • Making gingerbread men, exploring changes in materials. • Introducing class pet goldfish and how to care for it. • Exploring materials through the story The Three Little Pigs • Anti- bullying week- talking about how we can be a good friend
<p>Autumn 2</p> <p>Halloween</p> <p>Julia Donaldson</p> 	<p>Red, brown, yellow, leaves, falling mushroom, wind, acorns, hedgehogs, berries, mixing, pouring, changing different, fizzing, crackles, home, house, habitat, need, build, join, tie, cover, over, under, plant, soil grow, water, onion, garlic, Diwali, rangoli, candle, light, celebrate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Autumn- using senses to spot seasonal changes • Making potions- exploring changes in materials through mixing • Animal's habitats- talking about the different animals in the Gruffalo and where they live. • Beginning to den build using natural materials and building homes for animals • Sowing onions/garlic • Celebrating Christmas • Diwali – learning about Diwali and how it is celebrated.
<p>Spring 1</p> <p>All around the world</p> 	<p>People, countries, different, warm, hot, cold, countries, flag, celebrate, different, food, taste, sounds, dress, Christian, Jesus mix, pour, plant, smell, spicy, salty, sweet, bitter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to understand the world has different countries and exploring new places. • Learning about different cultures. (London, China, Spain, South Pole, India, Ireland) • Celebrating Chinese New Year. • Pancake Day- talking about why we celebrate pancake day. • Sowing herbs for the garden • Using senses to explore new food.

<p>Spring 2 African safari</p> 	<p>Folktale, moral, good, kind, sharing, helpful, different, Jesus, eggs, bunny, cross, Africa, safari, different, houses, homes, food, schools, daffodils, buds, blossom, birds, sand, leaves, waxy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about African cultures and folk tales. • Sharing African stories with a moral and sharing our own thoughts on these stories and what we learning from them • Understanding how people may live differently. • Exploring indoor plants from warmer countries. • Tasting African foods. • Celebrating Easter • Beginning to spot signs of Spring
<p>Summer 1 Minibeasts</p> 	<p>Habitat, home, trees, soil, rocks, logs, water, look, magnifying glass, tweezers, explore, plat, soil, water, sunlight, nutrients, Earth, care, pollution, wood, stones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning how to care for small animals and how they grow (tadpoles, worms). • Exploring the outdoor environment using investigation tools to spot mini-beats in their natural habitat. • Planting beans, sunflowers • Earth Day – how we can care for our planet.
<p>Summer 2 The seaside</p> 	<p>Harvest, cooking, taste, smell, stir, changes, hot, sunny, green, flowers, sand, shells, fish, crabs, listening, sharing,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest onions garlic and peas • Using school grown vegetables and herbs to cook and taste. • Exploring Summer- using senses to spot seasonal changes. • Looking at different environments and sharing key features of what is at the seaside • Sharing their own experiences of the seaside and listening to others.