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Curriculum Information Letter – Nursery 2026-2027 – Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Nursery! The first few weeks will focus on helping the children settle in, learn their new routines and feel happy and confident in the classroom. This half-term, we will be exploring our Travel and Transport topic through stories, play and lots of practical activities.

Curriculum Plan for Autumn 1 2026

Communication and Language	This half-term, we will be supporting the children to develop their communication and language skills as they settle into Nursery. Through daily stories, songs, rhymes, carpet times and play, children will be encouraged to listen to adults and other children, join in with familiar songs and stories, and begin to focus their attention for short periods of time. We will also support children to understand and follow simple instructions and to use words to communicate their needs, choices and ideas. Adults will model new vocabulary, clear speech and simple sentences throughout the day, helping children to develop their confidence in talking and communicating with others.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	This half-term, we will be helping the children to settle into Nursery, feel safe and secure, and begin to build positive relationships with the adults and children around them. Through stories, circle times and everyday conversations, children will be encouraged to recognise and talk about simple feelings such as happy, sad, angry, tired or worried, with adults supporting them to begin to manage their emotions and behaviour. We will also focus on developing independence through familiar Nursery routines. Children will be encouraged to explore the classroom, make simple choices, take turns, begin to manage toileting and handwashing routines, and ask for help when they need it.
Physical Development	This half-term, we will be developing the children's gross motor skills through active play and our Games sessions with Coach Rae. Children will practise walking, running, crawling, climbing and moving safely around different spaces, as well as taking part in simple stop-and-start activities and games. They will also have lots of opportunities to develop strength, balance and coordination through outdoor play, scooping and pouring, using balls and exploring a range of physical equipment. We will also focus on fine motor development, helping children to strengthen their hands and fingers through mark making, playdough, threading, peg activities and early scissor skills.
Religious Education	This half-term in RE, we will be exploring the big question, 'Who made the wonderful world?' Children will think about what is precious to them and learn about the Christian belief that God created the world. Through stories, discussion and creative activities,

	they will explore what is special about the natural world, what makes each person unique and why Christians believe people and creation are precious to God. We will also learn about Harvest and why it is an important time for Christians to give thanks for the food and gifts of the natural world.
Literacy	This half-term, our Literacy learning will be linked to our Travel and Transport topic through the stories The Hundred Decker Bus, Naughty Bus and The Train Ride. Children will listen to and join in with stories, talk about what they can see in the pictures and photographs, and begin to make simple predictions about what might happen next. They will also explore early writing through purposeful mark making. Children will create bus routes, warning signs, pictures, train-window scenes and simple tickets, learning that marks, symbols and pictures can carry meaning. Adults will encourage children to talk about what they have made, explain what their marks mean and use new vocabulary linked to journeys, transport and the stories we are reading.
Maths	This half-term in Maths, we will be exploring amounts, shape, size and pattern through lots of practical play and hands-on activities. Children will make and compare collections of objects, beginning to use mathematical language such as more, fewer, same, lots, large and small. They will also explore different shapes and objects through construction, puzzles and shape sorters, learning to notice differences in size and shape and beginning to choose particular blocks or pieces for a reason. We will also explore repeating patterns through songs, rhymes, stories, movement, printing and building. Children will be encouraged to notice what comes next, join in with repeated parts, clap along to a beat and create their own simple arrangements and patterns using blocks, natural objects and other classroom resources.
Understanding the World	This half-term, our Understanding the World learning will be linked to our Travel and Transport topic. Children will talk about familiar journeys and begin to use sequencing words such as "now" and "next" to describe how they travel to school. They will compare transport from the past and present, looking closely at old and modern cars, buses, trains and bicycles and noticing what is the same and what has changed. We will also explore the people and places connected with travel, including drivers, conductors, passengers, bus stops, stations and crossings. Children will learn about transport in our local community and begin to understand some of the routines that help us travel safely. Through outdoor exploration and practical activities, they will investigate tracks, wheels, surfaces, sounds and movement, using their senses and descriptive language such as smooth, rough, loud, quiet, fast and slow.
Expressive Arts and Design	This half-term, our Expressive Arts and Design learning will be linked to our Travel and Transport topic. Children will explore colour, drawing, painting and printing by creating pictures of vehicles and journeys, using crayons, pencils, paintbrushes and vehicle wheels to make different marks and effects. They will begin to name primary colours, choose colours for a purpose and talk about what they have created. Children will also develop their modelling and construction skills through playdough and large-scale building. They will practise rolling, squeezing, cutting and joining materials to create vehicles, roads, tracks and other transport-related models, as well as working with others to build larger structures such as buses, stations, bridges and garages. Through music, movement, role play and small-world play, children will explore different ways of moving, take on transport-related roles and use their imagination to create and act out simple journeys and stories.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Bernie will be the key worker for our Nursery children and will be one of your main points of contact throughout the year. Please do speak to

either myself or Bernie if you have any questions, concerns or anything you would like us to know about your child.

Michael Ritson
Assistant Headteacher / EYFS Lead