

Willow Class

Curriculum Overview

Spring 2026



This term's themes:

'Transport' and 'Plants and Gardens'

We will be exploring these themes through stories and play. Much of our learning will be led by the children's interests and ideas.

Children will be encouraged to make choices as to the activities they select as well as working with adults on their personal developmental targets.

Each child will have a key adult who will support and monitor progress. The key adults will help children to settle into Willow Class and learn daily routines.

Communication and Language

Children will widen the range of language they understand and can express through daily interactions with key adults. They will learn to engage in more complex conversations through role play activities.

Children will have opportunities to engage with less familiar visitors in a safe environment.

We follow the Little Wandle Foundations programme which supports communication and language development and uses rhymes to explore and experiment with sounds and language. Our focus rhymes this term are 'Down at the station', 'The wheels on the bus', 'Mary, Mary, quite contrary' and 'Round and round the garden'.

Reminders:

- Morning session is 9.00am -12.00pm and afternoon session is 12.00pm – 3.00pm.
- If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school office before the session.
- Label all items of clothing, water bottles and anything else your child brings to nursery.
- Avoid sending in valuable items or toys your child is very attached to.
- Children staying for the full day will need a packed lunch. In line with DfE guidance, we encourage a healthy, balanced diet and lunches must not include anything containing nuts due to allergies.
- With the exception of small stud earrings, jewellery should not be worn to nursery for safety reasons.
- A learning letter will be sent to parents via email each week with reminders and to let parents know what children have been learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be introducing children to the 'Think Equal' programme which uses stories to allow children to explore their own feelings and they will be encouraged to begin to understand how others might be feeling.

They will learn to follow rules and develop an understanding of why they are important.

Children will develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community by having opportunities to look after and improve the nursery environment. We will be creating displays together and planting bulbs and seeds in the outside area.

Physical Development

Children will be developing the skills needed to play group games in our weekly GetSet4PE session.

Equipment and apparatus will also be provided during continuous provision to practise using large muscle movements.

Small motor control will be developed through cutting, threading, modelling, play dough manipulation etc. Children will also learn to complete simple dressing tasks, such as putting on coats independently.

Maths

Children will begin to understand that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total.

They will discuss routes and locations and talk about and identify the patterns around them.

Children will begin to link numerals and amounts. They will develop their fast recognition of 1, 2 and 3 objects.

We will continue to use the White Rose learning scheme.

Literacy

Children will develop their phonological skills during a daily Foundations for phonics session.

They will engage in conversations about familiar stories. Our focus books this term are 'Car, Car, Truck, Jeep', 'The Train Ride', 'Errol's Garden' and 'Jasper's beanstalk'.

Children will learn to hear the initial sound and recognise the capital letter of their name.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will learn to sing the melodic shape of familiar songs and rhymes.

Children will learn to draw with increasing complexity and detail. They will develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.

Children will make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits.

Understanding the World

Children will learn that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Children will explore natural materials, indoors and outside.

They will plant seeds and care for growing plants and begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.