

Willow Class

Curriculum Overview

Autumn 2026



This term's themes:

'Amazing Me!' and 'People who help us'

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 be supported to communicate their needs and preferences to others and express how they are feeling.

Children will widen the range of language they understand and can express through daily interactions with key adults. They will begin to engage in conversations with others.

We will use rhymes to explore and experiment with sounds and language. Our focus rhymes this term are 'One, two, buckle my shoe', 'Twinkle, twinkle little star', 'Miss Molly had a dolly' and 'Pat-a-cake'.

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 or to have paid for a school lunch via Scopay. Parents can choose their child's meal in the morning at drop off. We encourage healthy eating and packed 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

Children will be encouraged to select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. They will learn to play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children.

They will learn to talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

Children will understand how to make healthy choices about foods and drinks. They will develop an understanding of the need to wash hands and brush teeth.

Physical Development

Each week the children will have the opportunity to take part in a PE session following the GetSet4PE scheme.

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.

Maths

In maths the children will compare quantities using the language 'more than' and 'fewer than'.

They will talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes and patterns.

We will begin to use number names to count in order through rhymes and practical exploration. We will also begin to subitise using the numbers 1, 2 and 3.

We will be using the White Rose scheme of work throughout the year.

Literacy

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

Children will engage in conversations about familiar stories. Our focus stories this term are 'Where's Lenny?', 'Amazing', 'All through the night' and 'Lulu loves the library'.

Children will learn to find their name using picture clues and recognise the initial letter of their name.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will join in singing rhymes and songs.

Children will learn to express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes giving meaning to the marks they make.

Children will take part in simple pretend play. They will be encouraged to use an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.

Understanding the World

Children will learn to notice differences between people.

Children will make connections between the features of their family and other families. They will begin to make sense of their own life story and family's history.

We will begin to learn about different occupations.

We will talk about and explore the differences between materials and changes they notice.