

# EYFS CYCLE A CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A broad and balanced curriculum that builds knowledge, sparks curiosity and helps every child to flourish.



## AUTUMN TERM

### LET'S EXPLORE & MARVELLOUS MACHINES

#### BIG QUESTION

**How do we explore our world and how do machines help us?**

Children explore home, school and the local area while building early language, number, creative and problem-solving skills. They investigate materials, shelters, inventions, puppets and simple machines through hands-on play.



## SPRING TERM

### LONG AGO & READY STEADY GROW

#### BIG QUESTION

**How do stories, memories and growing help us understand change?**

Children explore the past through stories and rhymes, then learn about food, farming, plants and signs of spring. They notice change over time and develop curiosity through practical growing and seasonal learning.



## SUMMER TERM

### ANIMAL SAFARI & ON THE BEACH

#### BIG QUESTION

**What can we discover about animals, minibeasts, movement and life by the sea?**

Children meet animals and minibeasts, explore seaside life, movement and sports, and celebrate moving on at the end of the year. Learning is active, imaginative and full of discovery.

## WHAT PARENTS WILL SEE IN THIS OVERVIEW

Each topic page shows the key learning, memorable experiences, suggested texts and practical challenges from the EYFS Cycle A class plan. Across the year, children learn through play and purposeful teaching in communication and language, literacy, mathematics, personal, social and emotional development, physical development, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

## Learning in God's Love

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.



Brighter Futures Together

# EARLY YEARS TOPIC

## LET'S EXPLORE

Discover home, school and the local area while building early maths, language, creative and problem-solving skills.



### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting, matching, sorting, comparing sets, subitising and noticing patterns. Children explore number through playful practical activities and the linked Build It Up learning.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Build gross and fine motor skills through climbing, balancing, mark-making, construction, dough, tools and active play. Children strengthen their bodies and coordination while exploring indoors and outside.



### PSSED

Develop self-regulation, managing self and building relationships. Children learn routines, independence, turn-taking, confidence and how to play and work kindly with others.



### LITERACY

Build comprehension, word reading and early writing through rich stories, mark-making, name writing, drawing, oral storytelling and simple caption writing.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Explore the world around us through home, school and the local area. Children begin to notice people, places, communities, materials and the natural world, and talk about what they see and experience.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Create with materials, build imaginative worlds and express ideas through art, music, movement and role play. Children explore colour, texture, junk modelling and open-ended creative play.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Develop listening, attention, understanding and speaking. Children learn new vocabulary linked to exploration, talk about what they notice and follow simple instructions and routines.



### BUILD IT UP

Mini-project focus: building shelters and structures, solving practical problems, and using materials imaginatively through the linked Build It Up experience.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Let's explore!; Build It Up!; local walks; exploring school; den and shelter making.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

We're Going on a Bear Hunt;  
Rosie's Walk;  
The Three Little Pigs.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Helping Theo; designing and building shelters; exploring the local area; noticing materials; talking about what we see.

### ASK ME ABOUT

My school and local area. How we build shelters. Things we can see, hear and notice outside. Counting, sorting and pattern spotting.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

## EARLY YEARS TOPIC

# MARVELLOUS MACHINES

Explore machines, movement, inventions and puppets through imaginative play, making and storytelling.



### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting, sorting, comparing and making patterns. Children apply early maths while exploring machines, size, shape and movement.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen fine motor and gross motor control through joining, building, cutting, fixing, handling tools and making moving creations.



### PSED

Develop perseverance, independence and teamwork while solving problems, sharing ideas and creating together.



### LITERACY

Develop comprehension, word reading and early writing through stories, labels, captions, talk for writing and simple instructions linked to machines and puppets.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Find out how everyday machines and inventions help us. Children notice how things work, talk about change and technology, and explore past and present through practical experiences.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Create with materials through junk modelling, puppet making, painting and imaginative role play. Children design, build and perform their own ideas.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Listen carefully, follow instructions and explain how things work. Children build vocabulary linked to machines, inventions, movement and storytelling.



### PUPPETS & POP UPS

Mini-project focus: puppet shows, storytelling, imaginative performance and creating moving or interactive models.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Marvellous machines; puppet shows; junk modelling; investigating moving toys and vehicles.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Naughty Bus;  
The Train Ride;  
If I Built a Car.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Incredible inventions; making puppets; solving design problems; finding out how things move.

### ASK ME ABOUT

How machines help us. How wheels and moving parts work. How we made puppets and inventions. The stories we performed.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY  
Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

Small Ideas  
Big Possibilities

Think  
Make  
Create

MOVING  
IDEAS  
BRIGHTER  
TOMORROWS

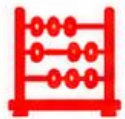
Make  
Play  
Explore  
Discover

Once upon a time...

## EARLY YEARS TOPIC

# LONG AGO

Explore the past through stories, rhymes, celebrations and memories while noticing how things change over time.



### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting, matching, ordering and noticing repeated patterns in stories, songs and practical tasks.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Develop fine and gross motor skills through action rhymes, movement, dance, outdoor play, mark-making and practical classroom routines.



### PSSED

Build confidence, relationships and self-awareness through shared stories, celebrations, role play and learning together.



### LITERACY

Build comprehension, word reading and early writing through favourite stories, nursery rhymes, simple captions, oral retelling and mark-making.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Learn about the past and present through stories, memories, birthdays, family life and objects from long ago. Children begin to notice how things change over time.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Retell and perform stories and rhymes, create props and costumes, and use music, movement and art to respond imaginatively to tales from long ago.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Develop listening, attention, understanding and speaking through storytelling, discussion, rhymes, questioning and retelling.



### STORIES & RHYMES

Mini-project focus: storyteller experiences, nursery rhyme performance and exploring how stories help us remember the past.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Long ago; storytellers; birthday celebrations; stories and rhymes performances.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Once There Were Giants; Peepo!; traditional nursery rhymes.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Exploring changes; nursery rhyme presentation; comparing old and new; talking about memories and special times.

### ASK ME ABOUT

Things that happened long ago. Old and new objects. My favourite stories and rhymes. How stories help us remember.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

Memories

PLANT  
GROW  
LEARN  
TOGETHER

## EARLY YEARS TOPIC

# READY STEADY GROW

Explore food, farming, plants and signs of spring through practical growing, tasting and seasonal discovery.

LITTLE  
SEEDS  
BIG  
TOMORROWS



### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting seeds, comparing amounts, making patterns and using early maths in planting, sorting and seasonal activities.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Find out about food, farming, plants and the natural world. Children notice seasonal change, signs of spring and how living things grow and change.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Build fine and gross motor skills through digging, planting, watering, cutting, handling tools, outdoor play and practical growing activities.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Create with materials inspired by spring, gardens and farms. Children use paint, collage, music, movement and imaginative play to respond creatively to the natural world.



### PSSED

Develop independence, care and cooperation while tending plants, trying new foods, and working together kindly in shared activities.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Develop vocabulary linked to growth, plants, farms, healthy food and spring. Children talk about what they observe and ask questions about change.



### LITERACY

Build comprehension, word reading and early writing through stories about planting, spring, food and life cycles, along with labels, lists and simple captions.



### SIGNS OF SPRING

Mini-project focus: noticing seasonal change, finding signs of spring and responding to what we see in the natural world.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Food and farming; looking for signs of spring; tasting and growing activities.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Jasper's Beanstalk;  
Oliver's Vegetables;  
Jack and the Beanstalk.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Penny Pig's super salad;  
Spring is...; growing and caring for plants; noticing how things change.

### ASK ME ABOUT

What plants need to grow.  
Signs of spring. Food from farms and gardens. Seeds, roots, shoots and fruits.

GOOD  
FOOD  
HAPPY  
PEOPLE

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

## EARLY YEARS TOPIC

# ANIMAL SAFARI

Discover animals and minibeasts while building curiosity, early science understanding and imaginative learning through play.



### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting animals, matching, sorting and comparing, and using early maths in playful safari and minibeast investigations.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen gross and fine motor skills through active movement, animal actions, outdoor play, small-world play, drawing and making.



### PSSED

Develop confidence, cooperation and care for living things while learning together and sharing ideas in playful safari activities.



### LITERACY

Build comprehension, word reading and early writing through animal stories, information texts, captions, labels and oral storytelling.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Explore animals, habitats, minibeasts and the natural world. Children begin to notice similarities, differences and how living things are cared for.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Create with materials to make favourite animals and minibeasts, and use imaginative role play, music and movement to respond creatively to safari themes.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Develop vocabulary linked to animals, habitats and minibeasts. Children listen, ask questions, describe what they see and explain their ideas.



### CREEP, CRAWL & WRIGGLE

Mini-project focus: minibeast safari, close observation and making favourite minibeasts through creative exploration.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Meet the animals; minibeast safari; animal role play and outdoor discovery.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Rumble in the Jungle;  
Walking Through the Jungle;  
Mad About Minibeasts!

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Greedy Zebra; making our favourite minibeasts; caring for living things; noticing similarities and differences.

### ASK ME ABOUT

My favourite animals and minibeasts.  
Where animals live. How we care for living things. What I found on our safari.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY  
Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.



## EARLY YEARS TOPIC

# ON THE BEACH

Explore seaside life, movement, summer fun and moving on through active, practical and imaginative learning.

1  
1  
3

### MATHEMATICS

Develop number and numerical pattern skills through counting, comparing, ordering and practical problem-solving in seaside, movement and end-of-year activities.



### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Explore the seaside, the natural world and changes over time, while also reflecting on moving on and all that children have learned across the year.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Build gross and fine motor skills through sports, balancing, throwing, catching, movement games and practical outdoor learning.



### EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Create with materials inspired by the beach and summer, and use imaginative play, music, dance and performance to celebrate moving on.



### PSSED

Develop self-confidence, resilience and positive relationships while preparing for transitions, celebrating achievements and thinking about the year ahead.



### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Develop listening, understanding and speaking through discussion, reflection, storytelling and sharing ideas about seaside experiences and moving on.



### LITERACY

Build comprehension, word reading and early writing through seaside stories, simple captions, lists, labels and reflection on favourite memories from the year.



### MOVE IT & MOVING ON

Mini-project focus: sports session, exploring the busy body, reflecting on "My year" and preparing confidently for the next stage.

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

What can you do at the beach?; sports session; moving on celebrations.

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Tiddler; Commotion in the Ocean; Sharing a Shell.

### INNOVATE CHALLENGES

Seaside packs; My busy body; My year; talking about summer, the beach and moving on.

### ASK ME ABOUT

What I can do at the beach. How my body moves. My favourite memories from EYFS. What I am looking forward to next.

*Learning in God's Love*

COURAGE • COMPASSION • COMMUNITY

Where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

SMALL  
STEPS  
BIG  
ADVENTURES