Curriculum - Term 2 November 2026

Hedgehogs – Year R

Topic for the Term	Welcome to School
What we'll be learning	Settling into school life and daily routines, making friends and beginning to explore each area of learning through play.

Communication and Language	
Listening & Talking	**Children will:** • develop listening and attention skills through stories, discussions and group activities • learn and use new vocabulary linked to autumn, families, celebrations and the natural world • retell familiar stories, including Leaf Man, Pumpkin Soup, Stick Man and The Nativity • develop confidence in speaking, sharing experiences, asking questions and taking turns in conversations.
How you can help at home	• Talk with your child about their day and encourage them to share stories and experiences. • Share books together every day and talk about what is happening in the pictures.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
PSED	**Children will:** • build positive relationships, learning to share, take turns and play cooperatively • talk about families, recognising that every family is special and unique • develop independence, confidence and resilience when exploring new activities and challenges • recognise and talk about feelings, showing kindness, respect and consideration for others.
How you can help at home	• Discuss your family, as well as extended family and the differences. • Talk about feelings and give your child the words to describe how they feel. • Praise kindness, good manners and cooperation.

Physical Development	
PD	**Children will:** • develop gross motor skills through Forest School, including climbing, balancing, running and exploring • participate in PE games, practising throwing, catching, kicking and following simple rules • develop fine motor skills through cutting, drawing, painting and manipulating natural materials • build independence with dressing, undressing, pencil control and using classroom tools safely.
How you can help at home	• Practise using scissors, pencils and cutlery. • Encourage independence with coats, zips, buttons and shoes. • Provide opportunities to run, climb and be active outdoors.

Phonics	
Little Wandle	**Children will:** • follow Little Wandle Autumn 2: ff, ll, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, sh, th, ng, nk sounds, along with words ending in s • develop oral blending and segmenting skills to support early reading and writing • begin to recognise, read and write taught sounds and simple words appropriate to individual ability.
How you can help at home	• Practise the sounds taught each week • Play simple games such as I Spy, using sounds rather than letter names • www.littlewandle.org.uk

Mathematics	
Number & Routine	**Children will:** • develop counting, recognition and understanding of numbers 1, 2 and 3, including subitising • explore how numbers to 3 can be represented and composed in different ways • recognise, name and explore the properties of 2D shapes, including circles, triangles and quadrilaterals.
How you can help at home	• Start counting objects, such as 2 sausages or 3 carrots. • Observe shapes in the world around you.

 **Understanding the World**	
UTW	**Children will:** • explore autumn and observe seasonal changes, including leaves, trees, weather and the natural environment • investigate the natural world through Forest School activities and hands-on exploration • talk about families, similarities and differences, personal experiences and family traditions • explore how Christmas and Chinese New Year are celebrated, learning about different cultures and traditions.
How you can help at home	• Talk about the seasons and changes you notice together on walks. • Discuss your family traditions.

 **Expressive Arts and Design**	
EAD	**Children will:** • create autumn artwork using natural materials, leaves, twigs and conkers • explore colour, texture, shape and construction through activities inspired by Leaf Man, Pumpkin Soup and Stick Man • develop imaginative play through role-play, small-world activities and retelling familiar stories • sing songs, explore musical instruments and participate in Nativity performances and Chinese New Year crafts.
How you can help at home	• Provide opportunities to draw, paint, build and make with everyday materials. • Sing topical songs and listen to music together.

 **Religious Education (Understanding the World)**	
RE	**Children will:** • learn about the birth of Jesus • become familiar with the Nativity story • understand that Christmas is an important celebration for Christians and explore themes of love, kindness and giving • learn about different celebrations and traditions, including Chinese New Year, developing respect for different beliefs and cultures.
How you can help at home	• Talk about different celebrations and what they mean to you and your family.

Suggested Reading	• The Snow Thief, Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater • Five Minutes Peace, Jill Murphy • Tiny McToot, Barry Falls • Super Nanny and Captain Yaz, Maria Gabriela & Saira Shah

Enrichment Ideas	• Go on a seasonal walk and look for signs of autumn and winter. What has changed? Collect leaves, conkers or pinecones and talk about their colours, shapes and textures. • Become a weather watcher – ;ook outside each morning and talk about the weather. Keep a simple weather diary using pictures or symbols. • Help our wildlife – make a simple bird feeder and watch which birds visit. Talk about how animals cope with colder weather. • Explore seasonal maths – sort leaves by size, count pinecones, make repeating patterns with natural objects or compare the lengths of sticks. • Investigate ice – on a frosty morning, explore how water freezes and what happens when ice is brought indoors. • Most importantly, encourage your child to notice, wonder, ask questions and talk about what they discover. These everyday experiences help develop curiosity, vocabulary and an understanding of the world around them.