



Nursery Summer 2026 Curriculum Overview

Summer 1

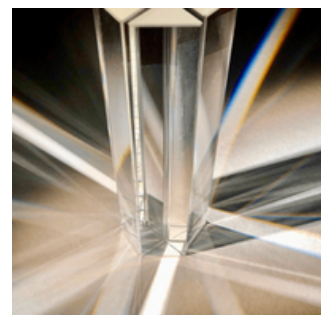
Sunshine and Sunflowers



This topic explores the joys of summer and the natural world. The children will learn about how plants grow, what sunflowers need to thrive, and why sunshine is important. We'll be planting seeds, observing changes over time, and enjoying lots of outdoor learning.

Shadows and Reflections

In this mini topic, the children will investigate light and dark through playful exploration. We'll be creating shadows, noticing how they change, and exploring reflections using mirrors and water. This topic supports early science skills including observing, predicting, and describing what we see.



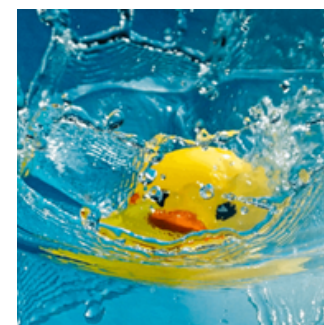
Summer 2

Big Wide World

In this project, your child will learn about the world around them including different countries, cultures and environments. The children will explore maps, talk about where they live, and begin to understand differences between people and places. We will also enjoy a class trip - more information to follow.



Splash



This is a fun, hands-on topic all about water! The children will explore floating and sinking, water movement, and simple experiments. There will be lots of sensory play, helping to build curiosity, language and early scientific thinking.

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

Children will:

- Use longer sentences to share ideas and experiences.
- Begin to use a wider range of vocabulary linked to our topics.
- Follow a two-part instruction.
- Ask questions to find out more and begin to explain what they are doing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Nursery we are learning how to regulate our nervous system and support healthy brain development through our 'My Happy Mind' lessons. In addition to this, our Jigsaw lessons help support our personal, social and emotional development.

This Summer term, our focus within Jigsaw is 'Relationships'. We will learn about making healthy relationships and how to show respect to others.

Within Nursery, we will:

- Play with others, taking turns and begin to negotiate our play.
- Show increased independence in choosing activities and managing routines.
- Talk about our feelings and begin to appreciate how others feel.
- Build confidence to try new experiences and persist with challenges.

Physical Development

Children will:

- Move confidently in different ways - running, jumping, balancing and climbing.
- Use tools with greater control (scissors, paintbrushes, mark-making tools).
- Dress independently.
- Develop good hygiene habits such as hand washing.

Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Children will:

- Join in with familiar stories and begin to retell the in their own words.
- Recognise and talk about pictures and print in books.
- Hear and identify some initial sounds in words.
- Give meaning to the marks they make, and begin to write some recognisable letters including those in their first name.

Phonics

We teach from the ELS scheme and below are the sounds that we will be introducing:

Summer 1 - e,u,r,h,b,f,l
Summer 2 - j,v,w,x,y,z,qu



Expressive Arts and Design

Children will:

- Use a variety of materials to create their own artwork and models.
- Begin to plan what they want to make and talk about their creations.
- Engage in imaginative play, acting out experiences and stories.
- Explore music through singing, movement and musical instruments.

R.E.

Summer 1:

- Vaisakhi
- Introduction to value: Respect
- Bible story: Parables of Jesus: The Lost Sheep
- Bible story: Parables of Jesus: The Prodigal Son
- Bible story: Parables of Jesus: The Wise and Foolish Builder
- Bible story: Parables of Jesus: The Lost Coin

Summer 2

- Pentecost
- Introduction to value: Perseverance
- Bible story: Old Testament: Noah's Ark
- Bible story: Old Testament: Moses
- Bible story: Old Testament: David and Goliath
- Bible story: Old Testament: Jonah and the Whale

Understanding the World

Children will:

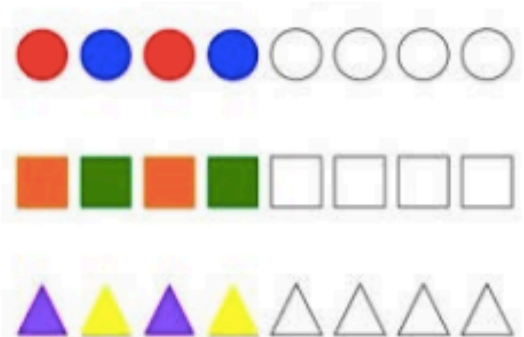
- Explore the natural world, noticing changes (plant growth, weather, seasons).
- Observe life cycles.
- Plant and take care of a seed.
- Talk about their own lives and the lives of others.
- Beginning to understand different places and environments around the world.
- Explore how things work through hands-on investigation (e.g. water, light, materials).

Nursery Maths

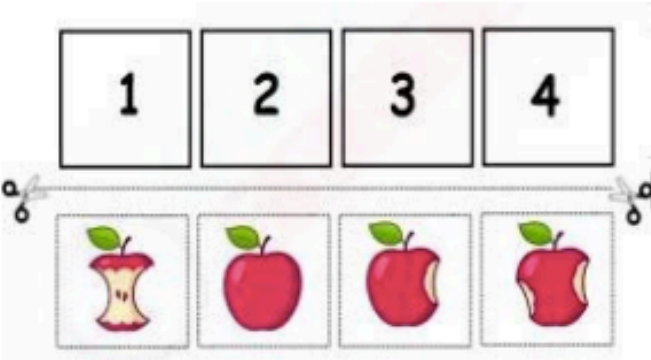
At St Francis, we follow White Rose Maths. Mathematics is taught daily in a progressive and systematic way, beginning in Nursery.

In Nursery we are learning:


How to create and extend ABAB patterns.




How to describe a sequence of events using words such as 'first' 'then'.




How to quickly recognise up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').




How to recite numbers past 5 and to say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.




That the last number reached when counting a small set of objects, tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle')




How to show 'finger numbers' up to 5.



How to link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.



How to describe locations using words such as 'in front of' and 'behind'.



How to sort shapes and objects into simple categories.

