

OCEAN NURSERY CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2026

Our themes are This is Me and Reach for the Stars. We will explore: What is special about me and my friends?
Why do people use lights at special times?



Characteristics of effective learning - PRETENDASAUR

In Autumn, children will investigate and experience new things.
They will 'have a go' through play and explain what they are doing with Pretendosaur.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

We will learn new words for routines, feelings, celebrations and festivals; listen to adults; follow simple and two-step instructions; join in with rhymes and repeated phrases; ask questions; and retell familiar experiences in simple sentences.

PERSONAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We will build relationships, learn nursery routines, explore emotions and develop confidence. Children will take turns, share, join group activities, talk about what makes them special, notice similarities and differences, and become more independent.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

We will climb, balance, run, jump and move to music. Threading, dough, tweezers, decorating, wrapping and scissors will strengthen fine-motor control. Children will develop control of mark-making tools and independence with toileting, handwashing and self-care.

LITERACY

We will share texts including We're Going on a Bear Hunt, The Colour Monster, Owl Babies and Leaf Man. Children will join repeated phrases, discuss characters and events, recognise their name and give meaning to drawings and marks.

MATHEMATICS

Through White Rose Nursery, we will compare and make collections, explore natural shapes, create line patterns, build roads and towers, count forwards and backwards, say number names in order, recognise 1, 2 and 3, sequence what happens next and sort objects.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

We will explore families, communities, bodies, senses, homes, autumn and harvest; then compare autumn and winter and investigate light, post and celebrations. Questions include: How do my senses help me find out? Where does a letter go? Why is dark necessary?

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

We will create self-portraits, family pictures, autumn art, firework paintings, decorations and cards. Children will mix colours, explore texture and instruments, sing and dance, build roads and bridges, and develop home and celebration role-play.

AT HOME

Talk about what makes your child and their friends special. Share books, rhymes and family celebration stories; practise recognising their name and counting to 3; notice autumn, winter, light and dark; and encourage dressing, handwashing and simple helping jobs.