EYFS Saplings Overview 2026-2027

Nursery	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Literacy - Talk for writing	Dear Zoo	The Magic porridge pot	The Rainbow Princess	Stuck in the Mud	The Three Little Pigs	We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Core Books	Rosie's walk We're going on a bear hunt Dear Zoo The Gruffalo Chocolate moose for greedy goose Goldilocks The Gingerbread Man The Tiger who came to tea Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy					
Songs	Key Rhymes - London's burning, I'm a little teapot, Hey diddle diddle, 5 little ducks plus many other known nursery rhymes					
Communication and language	Listens with interest and responds to stories and rhymes. Follow simple instructions. Uses language to share feelings, Link and clarify thoughts	Listen to others. Follow simple instructions. Repeats familiar phrases in song/story and rhyme	Listen and respond appropriately to what others say Understand and respond appropriately to questionAble to engage in back and forth conversation - express ideas and interests Display social etiquette and manners	Listens to stories with increasing attention and interest. Being able to recall stories. Holds and takes many turns in conversations with others	Maintains attention and sits quietly during appropriate activity. Understands why questions Uses vocabulary that reflects experiences. Begins to use because and explain own thinking	To respond to two part instructions. Begin to understand why and how questions. Uses more complex sentences.
Personal, social and emotional development	Separates from main caregiver Forming positive relationships/bonds with adults and peers Expresses preferences and interest Story The Colour Monster Interested in others' play, sometimes joining in. Plays alongside others.	Showing confidence to ask for help. Share and take turns with others with support as needed Values praise Seeks out others to share experiences. Respond to what others say and do. With support plays with others following same theme of play	Select and use resources with help when needed - helping them to choose a goal that is chosen or one suggested to them Persist when challenges occur. Cooperates with boundaries Begins to be aware of the needs of others and the feelings of others. Demonstrates friendly behaviours. Forms special relationships. Initiates conversations.		More outgoing towards unfamiliar people and environments, visitors to the class. Confident in talking to others. Enjoys playing in the nursery classes and outdoor area Increasingly follows rules and understands their importance. Behaviour reflecting the 6 values Adapts behaviours to different social situations. Changes in routine. Plays in a group. Can extend and elaborate play ideas/builds up role play with others. Initiates ideas and shares thoughts, negotiating roles. .	
Physical Development	Develop spatial awareness Large vertical painting and drawings using large tools to strengthen upper body		Develop vestibular skills - balance and ability to stay still through movement games and action rhymes		Jumps, runs and stops with control. Dancing Use pedal bikes	
	Strengthening activities - Finger gym activities, dough disco, plasticine to roll, squeeze and manipulate, rubber bands Hand-eye coordination activities-threading, beads, pegs hammers, duplo etc Using tools to make marks, including writing using palm, fist grip Refining grip, pressure and control using chubby pencils/pencil grips, felts, white boards and pens Using one handed tools - loop scissors and sprung scissors Yoga, Tummy Time,					

Maths	Uses number names in play, sometimes in sequence. Recites number names in sequence 1-5 and sometimes beyond. Counting children in the nursery each day. Day and date changed daily. Can copy a simple two part sequence e.g. jump/clap/jump/clap… Days of the week during registration Transient art	Understand numbers represent quantities. Shows an interest in number problems. Makes comparisons between quantities. Counting the children in the nursery each day. Day and date changed daily. Maths games using dice Explore 2D and 3D shapes using informal language and common names for shapes Days of the week during registration Transient art	Represents numbers. Numerals in the environment. Know that the last number reached when counting is how many in a set. Counting the children in the nursery each day. Day and date changed daily. Hop scotch Talks about and identifies patterns e.g. in nature, stripes on the shed, pattern in leaves. Explore repeating patterns with objects e.g. natural resources stone/stick/stone/stick…