Burton Manor Primary School
Term: Summer 2026

EYFS Topic Planning: Ducklings / Nursery / Reception
Topic/Theme: Creatures Great & Small

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. Talk with others to solve conflicts - stories on PSED, emotion puppets, cards. Modelling behaviour & conflict resolution, visual aids for behaviour, calm down areas & resources, Colour Monster. Rewards (stickers, certificates, golden time. Head Teacher Award for good behaviour)

Communication and Language

Be able to express a point of view and debate when they disagree with an adult or friend, using words as well as actions –PSED adult led activities, Social stories, PSED resources, visual aids. Modelling behaviour & conflict resolution, buddy system.

Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story - Listen to and join in with stories, extend with small world, role play and story sacks based on stories (to re-enact stories, repeating words & phrases, anticipate what might happen next). Sing & rhyme time. Book corner, looking at & sharing books with peers & practitioners. Print on stories in the environment. Home library books

WOW Moment

- celebrations, meeting visitors in Nursery, visits in the local community. (Transitions) visiting Reception Class and school. Writing some letters/writing my name. Learning some phonemes.

Physical Development

Increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movement which are related to music and rhythm – Take Ten, ring games, music & movement – children to choose favourite music to make up their own movements. **Use one handed tools and equipment (e.g, snips in paper) -** cutting activities, messy & funky fingers activities with scissors scoops, whisks, spoons, jugs, mashers, hammers, mark making tools. **Using a knife & fork** - plastic knives & forks with playdough, messy activities, home corner, using cutlery during food tasting, supporting at lunch time.

Physical Development Outdoors

Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams – model group games for children to copy (ring games, playground games, circle time activities, provide resources)

Language Rich Topic Words Animals, creatures, minibeasts, insects (names of these), habitats, safari. England, United Kingdom, country, Habitat, pattern, sequence, growing in the garden- talking about plant and parts that make up a plant.

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Writing Development

Encourage a comfortable pencil grip.

12-18 months: scribbles spontaneously marks on paper randomly	
24 months: imitates vertical and horizontal scribbling imitates vertical line	
2 ½ years: imitates horizontal line	
3 years: holds crayon with fingers rather than fist imitates circle	
4 years: beginning to use a 3 finger grasp imitates cross	
5 years: imitates square, x, and triangle handedness is typically established and consistent	

Literacy

Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens. Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary Understand the key concepts about print: print has meaning, the names of different parts of a book – Listen to and join in with stories in key text area, extend with small world, role play and story sacks based on these stories (to re-enact stories, repeating words & phrases, anticipate what might happen next) Book corner, looking at & sharing books with peers & practitioners, school to home library. Word of the week. Print in the environment. Home library books. **Develop phonological awareness so they can, spot and suggest rhymes, count or clap syllables in a word** – Phonics phase 1 activities - rhythm & rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds, learning letter sounds. Singing time. Rhyming games. **Write some letters of their name. Write some letters accurately** - self -registration (writing their name) on arrival, name cards in literacy area, writing their names on their work, tracing and writing names activities **Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. School Leavers- RWI phonics program.**

Key Texts

Rainbow Fish, Snail & the Whale, Commotion in the Ocean, Five Minutes Peace, Handa's Surprise, Walking Through the Jungle, Rumble in the Jungle, Tiger that Came to Tea, We went on a Safari, Teeny Weeny Tadpole, The Very Angry Ladybird.







PD Literacy

Mark making – in messy play with hands, fingers & tools. Art & craft activities in continuous provision. Literacy areas in continuous provision – assorted paper, cards, notepads, writing tools etc. Encouraging writing names on finished work, cards. Letter join, Ten Town & phonemes tracing

Maths

Knows the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total (cardinal principle) Say one number name for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5 - maths activities in the continuous provision & adult led activities based on theme/celebration. Counting songs. Counting children & objects in daily routine_**Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them (subitising)** - maths activities in the continuous provision & adult led activities based on theme/celebration, Numicon, looking at sets of two, three and possibly more, Ten Town activities on interactive board._**Link numerals and amounts-** Continuous provision & adult led activities, numbers on items in continuous provision, daily tasks (sharing snack).



Maths Outdoors

Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity – maths activities in continuous provision and adult led activities, large oose parts, access to tape measures, large scales, messy/sand/ water activities with containers. **Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind** – obstacle course, treasure hunt, making vehicles ramps, water runs.

Shape and Measure

Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind. Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...'- obstacle course, sequencing cards, actions, sequencing of time, making maps, sequencing stories, cooking & science activities.

Extend and create ABAB patterns, notice & correct an error in a repeated pattern – loose parts resources, continuous provision & adult led maths activities, exploring movement & music patterns.

Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity – maths activities in continuous provision and adult led activities, loose parts, weighing cooking ingredients & fruit, access to tape measures, scales, messy/sand/water activities with containers. **Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes, using informal and mathematical language 'sides, corners, straight, flat, round'-** shape puzzles/jigsaws, sorters, construction & loose parts, making pictures with shapes, threading/weaving shapes. **Talk about and identify the patterns around them** – making patterns in art & craft activities, mark making, animal patterns, clothing – dressing up, fabrics, African/Aboriginal patterns, matching patterns.

Understanding the World

Know that there are different countries in the world & talk about the differences they have experiences or seen in photo's – Africa, Australasia when looking at patterns for Maths focus (art, animals, fabrics). Ocean & sea life.

Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people – Exploring Africans & Aborigines (clothing, food, homes, customs, art) as part of looking at Creatures Great and Small.

Show interest in different occupations – (see list below), visitors to Nursery

Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties – playing & sorting loose parts, found objects from nature walks, making collages, sorting shells, **Explore and talk about different forces they can feel** – water play, talking table, investigating magnets, push & pull sorting items, making ice lollies & melting, friction toys, tinker box.

Exploring Nature in our nature garden and sensory garden – mud kitchen, bug hunts.

Occupations

Vet
Soldier
Zoo Keeper
Travel Agent
Air Hostess
Pilot
Hairdresser
Gardener

Celebrations and Culture

The children will learn about the following events:
May Day
Father's Day
Wimbledon
World Bee Day
School Leavers Graduation
Sports Day(s)



Small World/Talking Table

Animals - Safari, zoo, woodland, minibeasts, ocean life, sea life, sea side, dinosaurs, Our Pets - Vets.
Holidays - airport, boats, happy land beach, train set, what do we need on holiday.
Under the Sea - Creating a Rockpool
Talking Table – New Life, Growing and Planting, sensory garden, Life Cycles - Caterpillars/Butterflies.
Mud Kitchen -Using the herbs and plants from our sensory garden in the mud kitchen.



Expressive Art and Design

Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or noises- drawing/painting minibeasts/animals, different weather we see.

Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings – drawing characters from stories & how they feel. Messy –minibeasts in soil, jelly, animals in sand, soil, cereal, shaving foam ice cream play, kinetic sand, playdough.

Father's Day Cards



Resources

Rice.
Jelly.
Assorted fruit.
Assorted shells.
Kale – sea weed.
Flour – mark making.
Sterile soil
Sand
Compost
Seeds for growing- sunflowers, cress.

Music and Role Play

Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas – Dancing and instruments, make up their own songs to how they feel, prepare a concert for their peers.

Role play – vets, dressing up with patterned clothing, ice-cream parlour, juice bar, fruit & veg shop, camping, holidays, travel agent, going on Safari.



Design and Construction

Join different materials & explore different textures (EAD) - Pattern collage. Making sandcastles with wet sand & natural loose parts.

Make imaginative & complex small worlds with blocks & construction kits (EAD) – Making animal habitats, zoo with loose parts & construction resources,

Children's Interests …