Langley Mill Church of England Infant School and Nursery – Curious Cotton Mice Nursery Medium Term Plan – Autumn 2 2026-27

Autumn Leaves are Falling Down



This half term, we will be exploring the exciting changes that autumn and winter bring. The children will discover how the weather, plants, animals and the world around us change as the seasons progress. We will also celebrate and learn about a range of cultures, religions and beliefs, helping children to develop an understanding of the traditions and celebrations that make our world so wonderfully diverse. As we move towards December, we will immerse ourselves in all things Christmas, exploring festive traditions, sharing the traditional Christmas story, and learning why Christmas is celebrated by many people around the world.

Immersion Events

- **Celebrate a festival**

Parent Partnership Events

- **Christmas Concert – 09.12.2026, 10.12.2026**

Reading / Book Events

- **National Non-Fiction November (Bonfire Night, Remembrance, Winter, Christmas)**

Additional Events

- **Bonfire Night - 5.11.26**
- **Remembrance Day - 11.11.26**
- **Anti-Bullying Week – Theme 'Break the Silence' wc. 16.11.2026**
- **Children In Need - 20.11.26**

Prior Learning

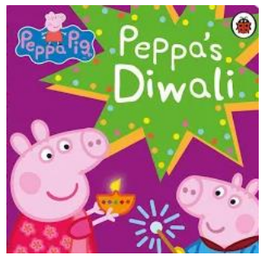
- The children have enjoyed learning all about themselves and celebrating the things that make each of them special and unique. They have explored how they have changed over time, thinking about their journey from babies to toddler.
- The children have also developed an awareness of where they live, learning about their homes and local community.
- They have experimented with a variety of materials, developing their confidence and independence as young learners.

This term, in Nursery we will be learning...

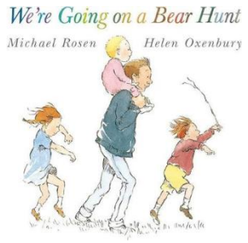
- The children will continue their exploration of the world around them by learning about the seasons and discovering what makes each one unique. Through observations, discussions and hands-on experiences, they will investigate how weather, plants and animals change throughout autumn and winter.
- The children will begin to understand a wide variety of cultures and their beliefs, ask questions and explore deeper into why people celebrate in different way.

Key Text



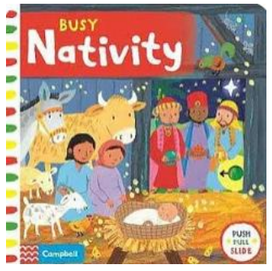










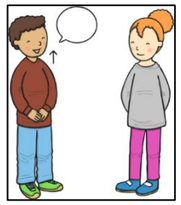


Key Nursery Rhymes

1. Autumn Leaves are Falling Down
2. North wind Doth Blow
3. Twinkle Twinkle
4. When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney
5. Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas star
6. Jingle Bells

Plus, all the songs we will be learning for our Nativity!

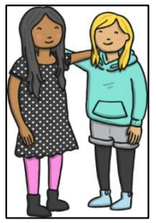
Communication and Language



As **communicators,** the children will be encouraged to pay attention when others are talking and respond when they are spoken to by name. They will be taught basic listening skills, with adults modelling how to listen when someone else is speaking. They will listen to a range of short stories, songs and rhymes all about the different celebrations that we are learning about. They will be supported to join in with any songs, stories and rhymes that are familiar to them and begin to learn and make up their own too.

Following instructions is very important so lots of simple instructions with two key words will give for the children to listen to and follow. All children will be encouraged to speak clearly, saying each other's names correctly and using simple two or more words sentences. All adults will ask lots of 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'where' questions for the children to try and answer in their clear voices. The nursery will be filled with enquiry and discussion, so the children's speech and vocabularies develop well.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



As **young citizens,** the children will be taught how to use the EYFS Unit and it all its resources appropriately. They will be given lots of freedom and choice to select and use resources which they would like to explore.

The children will be encouraged to talk about their feelings and understand them on a more meaningful level. Activities in our calm corner will be provided to ensure the children feel confident to share their feelings with the adults and children around them.

This term we will continue to develop skills such as sharing, taking turns and listening to each other whilst playing and learning in the nursery.

We will be partaking in Anti-bullying week where we learn all about how to be a good friend in the nursery.

Physical Development



As **movers,** the children will develop their physical literacy skills. This is the development of fundamental movement and sport skills, helping the children to advance their gross motor skills.

We will continue to work hard with parents and the children to ensure that all children can use the toilet independently.

The children will continue learning about good hygiene, ensuring we know why it is so important to wash and dry their hands.

Within the provision, we will continue to provide a Funky Fingers area with an activity designed to develop the children's hand control/movements. We will also begin providing whole group funky finger, Dough Disco and Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle sessions during the day to develop their fine motor skills.

Literacy



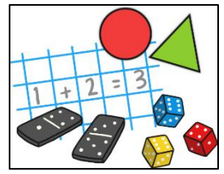
As **readers,** we will work on pre-reading skills. This includes listening to rhymes and sounds in the environment and using instruments. We will also be following the scheme Little Wandle, this term we begin to explore the sounds S A T P I N.

We will read lots of key texts related to the 'Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down' topic and use these to guide the children's play. This term there will be an array of both non-fiction and fiction books available for the children to choose from. The children will begin to understand the difference between books that are non-fiction and fiction and choose them appropriately. The children will begin to independently choose stories that interest them and understand how to read left to right and from top to bottom, how pages are turned, book parts such as front and back cover, etc.

This term we will be focusing on rhyme in songs and listening, learning and swapping rhyming words in our songs. We will also begin to hear and listen for initial sounds in our name and familiar words.

As **writers**, we will develop the children's gross motor skills by making large marks e.g., using playground chalk, painting with water. We will use Phase 1 'Toy Talk' to develop the children's understanding of the sounds in words. A big focus will be on supporting the children to use any print knowledge they have to start writing e.g., m for mummy. This term, we will continue to support the children to write at least the first letter of their name.

Mathematics



As **mathematicians,** the children will learn how to confidently recite numbers to 5 and beyond. They will know how to make 2 in different ways, gaining a real grasp of basic number skills.

The children will learn a variety of songs, rhymes and dances to develop their number, shape, space and measure knowledge alongside side planned group sessions taught by the nursery staff.

Within the provision, the children will have lots of opportunities to compare objects – either by size, length, weight or capacity. To develop awareness of time, we will start to use vocabulary to describe the time of the day that things happen e.g., morning, dinner time, afternoon, evening, helping the children differentiate between different parts of the day.

The children will also have lots of opportunities to explore and use shapes for building, thinking about which shapes are best for which purpose and why e.g., shapes with flat sides are best for stacking.

Understanding the World

As **historians,** the children will be learning all about their world and the world around them through culture, religion and celebrations. We will investigate festivals and celebrations from such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Hannukah, and Christmas. The children will then be given the opportunity to discuss celebrations that take place in our own homes and compare them to other celebrations and our friends in a positive manner.



As **geographers**, the children will learn about different religions and cultures from all about the world. Throughout the term we will be talking about many different countries and placing them on a large map that is in our classroom.

As **scientists**, the children will learn discover new textures and tastes through making and eating lots of different festival foods.

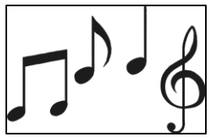


As **theologians,** the children develop positive attitudes about the differences between people. As a Church School, they will learn our nursery prayers which are recited on entry and at home time. Throughout the term we will seize opportunities to talk about life events.

Expressive Arts and Design



As **artists,** the children will be focusing on painting this term. We will begin to investigate and discover different festivals and use this to create bright, colourful paintings that represent celebration.



As **musicians,** the children will also be provided with a variety of music and songs to listen, learn and dance to from an array of different cultures and religions.
The children will be given the opportunity to partake in a Christmas concert that will involve learning lots of new Christmas songs, actions and dance moves!

We will continue access Charanga's Song Collection to choose a range of well known, favourite and number songs to support our curriculum and their Listening Activities, which is a collection of stories and listening examples designed especially for younger children. We will also select some of Charanga's Musical Activities to develop the children's musical and general skills. These include listening activities, musical games, singing and playing instruments.



As **creators,** the children will continue to develop their imaginations, role playing in our celebrations home corner and through other opportunities such as dressing up, using small world characters and accessing a range of props and open-ended resources.
