North Petherwin Nursery Overview Autumn 2 2026

What are we learning?



Key Themes and books









Super Me!

Key Themes

Seasonal changes from Autumn to Winter • Light, dark and space • Kindness and friendship • Special people • Birthdays and celebrations, including Christmas • World Nursery Rhyme Week

Key Facts

We will explore the changing seasons as Autumn turns to Winter, noticing changes in the weather, trees and natural environment. We will learn about kindness, friendship and helping others. We will explore light and dark, the Moon and stars, and talk about special people and celebrations. We will learn new nursery rhymes and songs and enjoy taking part in our school Nativity and Christmas celebrations.

This will help us when we learn about:

Seasonal changes, light, dark and space, relationships, kindness and different celebrations, beliefs and traditions when we are in Rainbows.

Key Vocabulary

These are some key words we will be learning and using this half term.









Ways to support at home

Read stories together every day. Talk about the pictures, characters and what might happen next.
Sing familiar nursery rhymes and learn new ones together.
Talk about kindness and ways we can help our friends and family.
Look at photographs of birthdays, Christmas and other special family celebrations.
Notice changes in the weather and environment as Autumn turns to Winter. Collect leaves or look for signs of frost.
Look at the Moon and stars together and talk about light and dark.
Encourage drawing and mark-making, such as making cards, pictures and gift tags.
Count everyday objects together, encouraging your child to point to each object as they count.
Notice small groups of objects and talk about how many there are without counting.
Look for shapes in everyday objects and talk about what you notice.

Nursery
Autumn Term 2
2026

Discover

We will encourage this learning by:

Sharing our key texts to explore seasonal changes, space, kindness, friendship and helping others.
Developing listening, attention and early phonological awareness through Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics, songs, rhymes and sound games.
Using stories, props and imaginative play to develop vocabulary, storytelling and communication skills.
Exploring different materials and creative techniques through seasonal artwork, model-making and mark-making.
Developing physical skills and early writing movements through Squiggle activities and practical play.
Developing counting skills, one-to-one correspondence, recognising small quantities and exploring shapes through everyday play.
Investigating seasonal changes, including wind, frost, ice and melting, through outdoor exploration and simple investigations.
Exploring light and dark, the Moon and stars through stories, conversations and play.
Learning about special celebrations and beginning to understand that families have different traditions.
Learning new nursery rhymes, songs and poems, and taking part in our Christmas celebrations.

North Petherwin Nursery Overview Autumn 2 2026

This half term in Sunbeams we will be developing the following skills (as well as revisiting previous skills and knowledge):

The Prime areas

Communication and Language

Nursery 1

Listens to and enjoys rhythmic patterns in rhymes and stories

Developing ability to put 2/3 words together

Nursery 2

Sing Songs and Talk about familiar stories

Begin to hold simple conversations with adults and other children

Physical Development

Ongoing throughout nursery…

Gross Motor Skills:
*Develop confidence in climbing and moving over, under and through equipment.
* Develop a range of movements including crawling, walking, running and jumping, increasingly matching movement to the task.
* Use large-muscle movements when painting, mark-making and using ribbons, flags and streamers.
*Develop skills in kicking, throwing and catching.
*Move, dance and respond physically to music.
*Develop balance, coordination and control when using wheeled toys.
*Develop strength and coordination through carrying, pushing, pulling and large-scale construction.
Fine Motor Skills:
*Develop hand and finger strength through squeezing, pinching, pulling, twisting and manipulating.
*Develop control and coordination when using a range of tools and equipment, including spoons, jugs, scoops, tongs, tweezers and pipettes. *Develop control through a range of mark-making experiences using different tools, surfaces and media. * Develop scissor control, beginning with snipping and progressing towards cutting forwards.
*Develop coordination and independence when using fastenings such as clips, clasps, zips and buttons and when opening and closing containers.
*Develop the physical foundations for later writing through **Squiggle While You Wiggle**.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Nursery 1
Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know their key person is nearby and available

Beginning to express preferences and decisions.

Nursery 2
Develop a sense of community and responsibility

Show increasing confidence in social situations

PSHE Coram Education-SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship
Me and my friends
Friends and family
Including everyone

The Specific Areas

Mathematics

Nursery 1
Comparing and combing objects

Compare saying lots, more, the same
Combine objects like stacking blocks and cups. Put objects inside others and take them out again
Beginning to recite some number names in sequence

Nursery 2
Counting skills and shapes

Develop confidence in counting objects to 5 and beyond, using one-to-one correspondence.
Counting out objects 1-1
Knows last number reached is the total (cardinal principle)
Exploring shapes in play and beginning to name them.
Showing number on fingers

Literacy

Nursery 1
*Enjoys sharing books with an adult
*Enjoys rhythmic and musical activity with percussion, songs, clapping along with the beat
*Enjoys listening or joining in with words of familiar songs and nursery rhymes
*Pay attention and responds to the pictures or the words in books
*Enjoys making marks freely

Nursery 2
* Develop phonological awareness through listening, rhymes, syllables and sound games.
* Begin to use familiar story language when retelling stories and during imaginative play.
*Learns new vocabulary from texts and topics
*Develop understanding of concepts e.g. same/different
*Join in with Story Dough sessions

Understanding of the World

Nursery 1
* Demonstrates curiosity about people and shows interest in stories about people, animals or objects.
*Explore and respond to different natural phenomena e.g. standing in the rain with wellies and umbrellas, crunching in frost, searching for bug etc.
ICT: Toys with buttons, flaps and simple mechanisms, beginning to learn to operate them.

Nursery 2
*Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history
*Develop positive attitudes to people and their differences
*In pretend play imitates events from own family or cultural background
*Explore and talk about changes in natural materials, including leaves, frost, ice and melting."
"Begin to notice and talk about light and dark, the Moon and stars.
ICT: Knows how to operate simple equipment, e.g. turns on CD player, uses a remote control, can navigate touch-capable technology with support

Expressive Arts and Design

Nursery 1
Notices and becomes interested in the transformative effect of their actions on materials and resources

Show attention to sounds and music (when you play different cultural/genre/tempo music etc.)

Nursery 2

Listen to sounds with increasing attention

Join different materials and explore different textures

Develop pretend play

Experiments with ways of playing sound makers e.g. fast/slow, loud/quiet