

Transition to the Oak Room

Your child will be moving on to access the provision in the Oak Room from September 2026. This will be very exciting and to prepare them for the change the children will be visiting the Oak Room regularly during the summer term.

The staffing ratio that is set by the Department for Education (DfE), changes as children turn 3 years. In the Oak Room there is 1 teacher for 13 children. It is expected that children who are 3 years will be independent in accessing resources, dressing and undressing and managing their hygiene needs.

To help your child prepare for this change:

If they are not yet using the toilet or potty please start this process now including practicing independently wiping after using the toilet.

If your child is still using a dummy please use this as an opportunity give this up. Dummies are beneficial for infants under the age of 6 months. After this age the benefits start to become negatives as dummies impact upon the formation of the palette of the mouth, placement of teeth and they are a barrier to children speaking clearly. Make sure to take away all the extra dummies your child may have collected in their pockets and cut through the teat to remove the temptation to go back to the habit. It is normal for this process to take a few days and for your child to ask for the dummy back. Remember the negative impacts outweigh any benefit of using a dummy at 3 years.

Outdoor Exploration

All nursery children are given the opportunity to access the outdoor learning environment each day. Research confirms that "***Outdoor learning improves child development, supports mental health and wellbeing, deepens nature connection and promotes more inclusive and engaging learning***".

As the weather is improving, please ensure your child arrives at nursery wearing a named sun hat and with sunscreen already applied. **Do not send children to nursery in crocs and sandals** as these can be dangerous when children are using outdoor climbing equipment.

Packed Lunch Bags

Please ensure you place an ice pack inside your child's lunch bag to ensure the contents of the lunch remains fresh until it is eaten. Don't forget to write your child's name on this with a permanent marker pen, to ensure it is returned in the correct lunch bag. If your child has hot food at lunch this MUST be sent in a thermos due to concern over foodborne illnesses.

Thank you to the parents who provided plant donations for the nursery gardens. We are very lucky to have such generous families in our school community

Safeguarding Reminders

- Please **do not leave any young children unattended** in cars when dropping off and collecting.
- Please **ensure all children coming to nursery are strapped into a suitable car seat**. This is UK law.

Parents and carers who do not use the correct car seats and those who leave children unattended can be **reported to social services for failure to safeguard** a child by calling 03000 267 979.



Summer Term 2026 Newsletter Maple Room



Our planned curriculum for the Maple room children

The nursery environment within the Maple room has been carefully created with resources to promote enquiry, collaboration and thinking skills. The continuous provision has been selected to promote the development of the PRIME areas of learning – Personal Social and Emotional, Communication and Language and Physical development. Resources are displayed to encourage independence and child led enquiry. Children in the Maple room have a daily planned small group time with similar age peers, led by their key person. During this group time they will read stories, sing songs and rehearse rhymes that have been carefully chosen to promote the development of language and literacy skills. Mathematical learning is supported through routine tasks such as self registration onto 5 frames, daily use of 5 frames at snack time, using visual timetables and matching resources to pictures at tidy up time

Celebrations

- Celebration of being unique
- End of year parties

Core Songs

- The Wheels on the Bus
- Old Mac Donald
- Horsery Horsery
- Waves on the sea
- Open and Shut them
- I had a little turtle
- Hello Mister Sun

Core Rhymes

- Slowly Snail, quickly mouse
- Here is a beehive
- This little piggy went to market

Core Books

- Peck Peck Peck
- Mine
- The Foggy Foggy Forest
- This is the Bear
- Still Stuck
- Monkey and Me
- Snore
- Daddy do my hair?
- Tiny Little Fly
- The Train Ride
- A Handful of buttons
- Where is binky boo?

Termly focus finding out about growth and change through animal lifecycles.
Transition to the Oak room.

Family engagement

- Beach visit – we will visit South Shields beach and park with all children and families.

Parent workshop

- Regulation

Parent evening date – 29th June 3-5pm. All parents are invited to sign up for an appointment to find out about their child's progress and engage with setting outcomes for their child to work towards.

Nursery fees are paid via your code. We ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of snack food, and baking/play dough materials. 15hour places pay £2 and 30 hours places pay £2.50. This should be given to your child's teachers in the Maple room each week or as a lump sum for the half term. Thank you

April / May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	20 Return to nursery	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4 Bank Holiday	5 Nursery photo day 1	6 Nursery photo day 2	7 Nursery photo day 3	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Sponsored Obstacle Course AM/PM	21	22	23
24 / 31	25 Half Term	26 Half Term	27 Half Term	28 Half Term	29 Half Term	30

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Parent workshop on co-regulation PM	24 We are all unique – celebration day	25	26	27
28	29 Parent meetings for Maple room	30				

If your child is unwell and unable to come to nursery you must let us know by either telephoning 01915271168 or emailing rosemary.lane@durhamlearning.net

As a school we have to follow safeguarding policy and this requires us to find out where a child is when they do not attend school

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Stay and play 11am & 2pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 South Shields Beach trip	17 Music & movement in nursery AM	18
Summer holidays						

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Staff training day	2 Nursery start date	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

More information will be circulated prior to the end of term regarding transition to the Oak room in September including dates, times and key people.

To mark the end of term the Willow children will have a music and movement morning in the nursery on 17th July. There will be no afternoon nursery on this day. All children who attend on this day should be dropped off as usual at 8.45 and collected at 11.40. There will be no lunch provision on this day.

All children and families are invited to attend the end of term beach visit to South Shields on Thursday 16th July. Nursery will not be open for parents and children on this day. Nursery staff will be offering parents the opportunity to buy discounted tickets to Ocean Beach Pleasure Park Amusements and Rides for the trip. More information will be sent via Seesaw closer to the time. As under 2s should travel in a car seat, unfortunately we are unable to offer South Shields bus places for younger sibling. Families are still welcome to join us by using their own transport to South Shields.