

Volunteers

We are always keen to encourage parents, carers and grandparents to come and join us in nursery. We always need extra help checking through and filling our activity packs. Volunteering could extend to sharing a skill – like helping us to look after our nursery garden or reading to the children. Please speak to your child's key person or call into the office if you interested in volunteering.

Fundraising

We try to raise funds across the year to help pay for special events and trips. This term we will have a sponsored Football Skills event following on from a series of football lessons in the nursery hall. We hope you will be able to help us with this fundraising.

Outdoor Exploration

All nursery children are given the opportunity to access the outdoor learning environment each day. As we move into the Autumn and the weather changes, please ensure your child arrives at nursery wearing a named coat and hat. **Do not send children to nursery in crocs or wearing scarves** as these can be dangerous when using outdoor climbing equipment. Make sure to name all items of clothing including socks and shoes as the children will take these off to access large equipment in the hall.

Developing skills

Now your child is three we will encourage them to be independent in their care needs. This included dressing for outdoor play and using the bathroom independently.

Things for your child to practice at home :

- Putting their coat on by themselves
- Taking their jumper/cardigan on and off by themselves
- Putting their socks and shoes on and off by themselves
- Using the toilet without an adult helping – this includes pulling clothing up/down and wiping by themselves
- Pushing their own sleeves up to wash their hands, and drying their own hands

We know these tasks are tricky so please help your child by giving them time to try at home by themselves (don't be tempted to do it for them). Stay nearby and give them lots of positive encouragement for success but also for having a try. Talk them through the process and break the task down into little steps to help them.

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.



Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter Oak Room



Our planned curriculum for the Oak room children

The nursery environment within the Oak room has been carefully created with resources to further embed and extend the skills children learned in the Maple room. The continuous provision has been selected to progress the development of PRIME areas and introduce the SPECIFIC areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Resources are displayed to promote children's independence and embed the characteristics of effective teaching and learning. Children in the Oak room meet together in their small group for planned experiences that are led by their key person. All children participate in an activity around mathematical development, phonological awareness, listening to a core story and singing core songs or rhymes across the school day. All stories, songs and activities have been carefully selected as part of our individual curriculum. We revisit learning to give children the opportunity to deepen their understanding. We do not rush to include more but carefully embed learning for children to explore and use through their independent play. If you would like more information on our nursery curriculum, please speak with Mrs Jones.

Celebrations

- Festivals of light – Diwali/Bonfire
- Christmas

Core Songs

- We've had a lovely time at school
- Hello everyone how are you?
- This is my trunk I'm a tall, tall tree
- Tommy thumb is up and down
- Autumn leaves are falling down
- See the little squirrel
- Jingle bells
- Baby Jesus born in Bethlehem
- We wish you a Merry Christmas

Core Rhymes

- Awkward child
- I'm a freezy-weezy snowman

Mathematical development

- Noticing - What do you see? How do you see it?

Termly focus

Settling in - new routines, new key people, an exciting new environment, new taught experiences and new challenges

Family engagement

- Christmas stay and play

Parent workshop

- Short videos about on our Maths curriculum and Phonological awareness work will be posted onto your child's seesaw account
- Fire safety reminders

Parent evening – Monday 30th November. All parents are invited to sign up for an appointment to find out about their child's progress and engage with setting next steps for their child to work towards.

Core Books

- Owl babies
- Alan's Big Scary Teeth
- Who's in the Loo?
- Families, families, families
- We're going on a leaf hunt
- Aaaaaaagh Spider
- The Best Diwali Ever
- I'm Sorry
- Thanksgiving is for giving thanks
- Where's my teddy?
- I am Brown
- Goldilocks and the three bears
- Mr Big
- The Christmas Story

Phonological awareness

- Listens for, produces and discriminates between different sounds, including environmental, instrumental and body percussion

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Staff training	2 Return to nursery	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Football skills 1			

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Football skills 2	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Football skills 3	15	16	17
18	19	20 Autumn walk with families at 2pm	21 Football skills 4	22	23	24
25	26 Half Term	27 Half Term	28 Half Term	29 Half Term	30 Half Term	31

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 Festival of light project week	3	4 Football skills 5	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Football skills 6	12	13 Children in Need day	14
15	16 Christmas photo week	17	18 Football Skills – Sponsored event	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Parent meetings					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Mission Christmas visit to Peterlee	4	5
6	7	8 Stay and play 2pm	9 Christmas party day	10 Stay and play 2pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Christmas singalong with families at 2pm	18 Staff training day – no nursery	19
20	21 Holiday	22 Holiday	23 Holiday	24 Holiday	25 Holiday	
	29 Holiday	30 Holiday	31 Holiday			

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

Are you interested in becoming a **school governor. We have a vacancy for a parent and co-opted governor.** As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school. This role may be particularly of interest if you have skills in finance/accounting, human resources, data or education but we invite applications from anyone who is interested in helping the school be the best it can be. Full training is available, and governors are encouraged to attend regular training sessions, either in person or online.