**Progression step 1 – 2025-26**

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| Topic | All about me | Our Wonderful World | Once upon a time | Animal adventures | Home sweet home | To infinity and beyond |
| My inspiration | Set up a 'mirror station' with different types of mirrors (e.g., funhouse mirrors) for pupils to explore their reflections. | Den building at Danbury Lakes | Dress-up day where pupils come as their favourite storybook characters.  Storytelling session with puppets and sensory props related to the story. | Petting zoo visit or bring in small animals for pupils to touch and interact with | Build a sensory model of a house using different materials (e.g., cardboard, fabric, foam). | Create a 'space station' in the classroom with sensory activities related to space exploration. |
| My voice | Introductions, choosing class reps, understanding pupil voice | Eco-projects, recycling, nature walks | Pupils to share their personal stories, experiences, and ideas for change | Caring for animals, playground and classroom safety | Local helpers, charity work, school pride | End-of-year review, what went well, hopes for next year |
| My community | Visit to a Local Community Centre (POP Essex)  Take a trip to a local community centre or family hub where learners can explore different activities and meet people who support the community.  Life Skills Focus:   * Communicating with new people   •Exploring personal interests  •Understanding roles in the community | Visit to a Garden Centre  Visit a Garden Centre to learn about looking after the planet and how we can help.  Life Skills Focus:  •Environmental awareness  •Following instructions in a new setting  •Asking questions and showing curiosity | Bus Reading Visit from local bus company.  Explore a local library or bookshop where learners can listen to stories, choose books, and meet librarians.  • Life Skills Focus:  • Choosing and handling books  • Listening and turn-taking  • Navigating a public space | Visit to a Rescue Farm (Brentwood)  Take a sensory-friendly trip to a petting farm or animal rescue centre to learn about caring for animals.  Life Skills Focus:  •Gentle handling and empathy  •Following safety rules  •Asking for help or information | Visit to a Café or Supermarket  Visit a local café or supermarket where learners can practise ordering food, using money, or helping with shopping.  Life Skills Focus:  •Money handling and choice-making  •Social interaction and manners  •Independence in a public setting | Visit to a Planetarium  Explore a science museum or planetarium with sensory exhibits and space-themed activities.  Life Skills Focus:  •Exploring new environments  •Engaging in sensory learning  •Asking questions and sharing excitement |
| British Values | **Democracy**  Children vote on class activities or storybooks.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss classroom rules and why they are important.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage children to make choices in their play and learning.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach children to listen to each other and share.  **Tolerance**  Explore different family structures and traditions. | **Democracy**  Children vote on which country or environment to explore.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss environmental rules and why they matter.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage children to express their thoughts on nature.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach respect for different cultures and environments.  **Tolerance**  Explore diverse traditions and practices around the world. | **Democracy**  Children vote on which fairy tale to read.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss the rules characters follow in stories.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage creative expression through storytelling.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach respect for different characters and their choices.  **Tolerance**  Explore moral lessons in fairy tales. | **Democracy**  Children vote on which animal to learn about.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss rules for caring for animals.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage children to share their favourite animals.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach respect for all living creatures.  **Tolerance**  Explore how different cultures view animals. | **Democracy**  Children vote on activities related to homes.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss rules that keep homes safe.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage children to share what makes their home special.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach respect for different types of homes.  **Tolerance**  Explore homes from different cultures. | **Democracy**  Children vote on space-related activities.  **Rule of Law**  Discuss rules for astronauts and space exploration.  **Individual Liberty**  Encourage children to imagine and create their own space stories.  **Mutual Respect**  Teach respect for different ideas about space.  **Tolerance**  Explore diverse beliefs about the universe. |
| School Values | **Kindness**  Recognises kind actions in stories and real life  Uses kind words with prompting | **Belonging**  Identifies groups they belong to (family, class)  Enjoys shared routines and rituals | **Believing**  Expresses hopes and dreams  Believes in others’ abilities | **Achieving**  Completes tasks with support  Celebrates own and others’ achievements | Respect  Recognises personal space and uses polite words with adult support  Shares resources and listens to others during group activities with guidance | **Accountability**  Follows simple class routines and accepts adult guidance when reminded  Takes responsibility for personal items and begins to understand the impact of actions |
| Literacy and communication | Recognise and respond to their own name and familiar words  Begin to use words and symbols to express needs and preferences  Listen to and join in with simple songs, rhymes, and stories  Explore mark-making as a form of communication  Begin to understand that print carries meaning (e.g., name labels) | Develop vocabulary related to nature and the senses  Listen to and respond to descriptive language (e.g., 'cold,' 'wet,' 'green')  Engage with simple non-fiction texts (e.g., picture books about animals or weather)  Use pictures and symbols to communicate observations  Begin to sequence events (e.g., planting a seed, watching it grow) | Listen to and recall familiar stories with support  Join in with repeated phrases and actions  Recognise characters and settings in simple stories  Use props or role-play to retell parts of a story  Begin to create their own simple narratives through play or drawing | Learn and use animal names and sounds  Match pictures to words or symbols (e.g., cat, dog, cow)  Listen to animal-themed rhymes and stories  Use descriptive words (e.g., furry, big, fast)  Begin to group animals by features (e.g., pets, wild animals) | Recognise and name familiar people and places  Use language to describe daily routines (e.g., bath, bed, breakfast)  Listen to stories about families and homes  Use visual schedules or storyboards to sequence daily events  Begin to write or draw about their home life | Learn and use simple space-related vocabulary (e.g., moon, star, rocket)  Listen to imaginative stories and respond with actions or drawings  Ask simple questions (e.g., 'What’s that?' 'Where is it going?')  Use imaginative play to explore new ideas  Begin to create their own space-themed stories or pictures |
| Mathematics and Numeracy | Recognise and use numbers related to self (e.g., age, birthday)  Begin to compare height, weight, and size (e.g., taller/shorter)  Sequence daily routines (e.g., morning, lunch, bedtime)  Explore positional language (e.g., in front, behind)  Use simple tallying (e.g., favourite colour or food) | Recognise and create patterns using natural objects (e.g., leaves, stones)  Count and sort objects found outdoors  Use language of quantity (e.g., more, less, same)  Begin to measure using non-standard units (e.g., how many sticks long?)  Explore time through seasons and weather changes | Sequence events in a story (beginning, middle, end)  Recognise and name basic 2D shapes in illustrations  Use ordinal numbers (first, second, third) in storytelling  Count characters or objects in a story  Explore size and comparison through fairy tale themes (e.g., Goldilocks) | Count animals and group by type (e.g., pets, wild, farm)  Use pictograms or simple charts to show favourite animals  Compare animal sizes and speeds  Explore patterns in animal markings (e.g., stripes, spots)  Use positional language in animal habitats (e.g., under, over, next to) | Recognise numbers in the home (e.g., door numbers, clocks)  Use simple coins in role-play (e.g., shopping corner)  Sequence home routines (e.g., brushing teeth, bedtime)  Match objects to rooms (e.g., spoon in kitchen)  Explore capacity and volume in water play (e.g., full, empty) | Use directional language (e.g., up, down, left, right)  Estimate and count stars, planets, or space objects  Explore size and distance (e.g., big rocket, far away planet)  Create repeating patterns with stars or shapes  Sequence a space journey using simple steps |
| Expressive arts | Self-portraits using various media (crayons, paint, collage)  Exploring colours and shapes to represent emotions  Creating family and friends portraits  Singing songs about self and family  Exploring sounds and rhythms using body percussion  Creating simple musical patterns with instruments | Nature-inspired art (leaf rubbings, flower paintings)  Creating landscapes using different textures  Exploring environmental art and recycling materials  Learning songs about nature and the environment  Using natural objects to create sounds  Exploring musical storytelling about the world | Illustrating favourite stories and fairy tales  Creating puppets and props for storytelling  Exploring different artistic styles from various cultures  Singing traditional and folk songs  Using instruments to create sound effects for stories  Exploring musical narratives and character themes | Animal masks  Creating animal habitats using mixed media  Exploring patterns and textures in animal art  Learning songs about animals  Using instruments to mimic animal sounds  Creating musical stories about animal adventures | Drawing and painting homes and buildings  Creating models of homes using various materials  Exploring architectural styles and designs  Singing songs about home and family  Exploring sounds and rhythms found at home  Creating musical compositions inspired by home life | Space-themed art (planets, stars, rockets)  Creating futuristic landscapes and cities  Exploring abstract art inspired by space  Learning songs about space and exploration  Using electronic sounds to create space music  Creating musical compositions inspired by the universe |
| Health and Wellbeing (PSHE) | Recognise and express emotions  Identify personal strengths and interests  Develop self-awareness and self-esteem  Understand personal boundaries and respect for others | Explore feelings about the environment  Develop empathy for living things  Understand the importance of caring for the world  Learn about community roles and responsibilities | Identify emotions in stories and characters  Discuss relationships and friendships in stories  Understand the concept of right and wrong  Develop problem-solving skills through storytelling | Recognise and express feelings about animals  Develop empathy and care for animals  Understand safety around animals  Learn about different animal habitats and their importance | Identify feelings about home and family  Develop understanding of family roles and relationships  Understand personal safety at home  Learn about healthy routines and habits | Explore feelings about the future and aspirations  Develop understanding of personal goals  Understand the importance of perseverance and resilience  Learn about safety in different environments |
| Health and Wellbeing (PE) | Fundamental movement skills  Coordination through footwork  Static Balance – exploring standing on one leg | Dynamic balance to Agility  Static Balance – exploring stance  Exploring jumping and landing  Seated Balance | Coordination – Ball skills  Coordination – sending and receiving  Counterbalance  Agility – Reaction and response | Agility – Ball chasing  Static balance – floor work  Balance and control  Dynamic Balance | Control and consistency  Healthy competition  Cooperative games  Personal best challenges | Team games  Agility and response  Strategic decision making during competitive games  Variety of movements with good body tension |
| Humanities | Understanding personal history and family  Exploring personal identity and culture  Recognizing important people in our lives | Exploring different environments and habitats  Understanding weather and seasons  Learning about different countries and cultures | Introduction to historical events and figures  Understanding the concept of past and present  Exploring myths, legends, and stories from different cultures | Learning about different animals and their habitats  Understanding the needs of living things  Exploring the concept of conservation and caring for animals | Understanding different types of homes and buildings  Exploring local community and landmarks  Learning about safety and roles within the community | Introduction to space and the solar system  Understanding the concept of exploration and discovery  Learning about famous explorers and their journeys |
| Science and Technology | Explore the human body and its basic functions.  Identify and name body parts.  Understand the five senses and their uses.  Use simple tools and technology to explore personal interests.  Create digital self-portraits using basic drawing software.  Learn to use a camera to take pictures of themselves and friends. | Observe and describe weather patterns.  Explore different types of plants and animals in the local environment.  Understand the concept of habitats and how animals adapt.  Use technology to record weather observations.  Create digital presentations about local plants and animals.  Learn to use mapping software to explore the local area. | Explore materials and their properties through fairy tale settings.  Understand basic concepts of force and motion.  Investigate light and shadows in story contexts.  Use technology to create digital storybooks.  Learn to use simple animation software to bring stories to life.  Create sound effects and recordings for storytelling. | Identify and classify different animals.  Understand animal life cycles and habitats.  Explore the concept of food chains and ecosystems.  Use technology to create digital animal fact files.  Learn to use video recording equipment to document animal behaviours.  Create interactive presentations about animal adventures. | Explore materials used in building homes.  Understand the concept of energy and how it is used in homes.  Investigate household plants and their care.  Use technology to design digital models of homes.  Learn to use basic coding to create smart home simulations.  Create digital artwork representing different types of homes. | Use technology to create digital models of the solar system.  Learn to use simulation software to explore space travel.  Create digital artwork representing space and planets.  Use technology to create digital models of the solar system.  Learn to use simulation software to explore space travel.  Create digital artwork representing space and planets. |
| Cooking | Wash hands with soap and water.  Cover mouth when coughing or sneezing.  Use a spoon to stir ingredients together.  Use a butter knife to spread butter or jam on bread. | Keep the table clean.  Ask a grown-up for help with sharp or hot things.  Use a peeler to peel soft fruits and vegetables with help.  Use a spoon to scoop ingredients into a bowl. | Keep fingers away from sharp edges.  Stay away from the stove when it's hot.  Experiment with different ingredients and techniques with guidance. | Use a small sieve to sift flour or sugar.  Use a rolling pin to flatten dough with help. | Wash hands with soap and water.  Keep the table clean.  Use measuring cups to measure ingredients with help.  Measure and mix ingredients to help bake simple treats like cookies with help. | Present food on the plate with help.  Experiment with different ingredients and techniques with guidance. |