**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 CentreVisit 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 SupermarketVisit 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 PlanetariumExplore 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 lifeUses kind words with prompting | **Belonging**Identifies groups they belong to (family, class)Enjoys shared routines and rituals | **Believing** Expresses hopes and dreamsBelieves in others’ abilities | **Achieving** Completes tasks with supportCelebrates own and others’ achievements | RespectRecognises personal space and uses polite words with adult supportShares resources and listens to others during group activities with guidance | **Accountability**Follows simple class routines and accepts adult guidance when remindedTakes responsibility for personal items and begins to understand the impact of actions |
| Literacy and communication  | Recognise and respond to their own name and familiar wordsBegin to use words and symbols to express needs and preferencesListen to and join in with simple songs, rhymes, and storiesExplore mark-making as a form of communicationBegin to understand that print carries meaning (e.g., name labels) | Develop vocabulary related to nature and the sensesListen 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 observationsBegin to sequence events (e.g., planting a seed, watching it grow) | Listen to and recall familiar stories with supportJoin in with repeated phrases and actionsRecognise characters and settings in simple storiesUse props or role-play to retell parts of a storyBegin to create their own simple narratives through play or drawing | Learn and use animal names and soundsMatch pictures to words or symbols (e.g., cat, dog, cow)Listen to animal-themed rhymes and storiesUse descriptive words (e.g., furry, big, fast)Begin to group animals by features (e.g., pets, wild animals) | Recognise and name familiar people and placesUse language to describe daily routines (e.g., bath, bed, breakfast)Listen to stories about families and homesUse visual schedules or storyboards to sequence daily eventsBegin 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 drawingsAsk simple questions (e.g., 'What’s that?' 'Where is it going?')Use imaginative play to explore new ideasBegin 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 outdoorsUse 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 illustrationsUse ordinal numbers (first, second, third) in storytellingCount characters or objects in a storyExplore 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 animalsCompare animal sizes and speedsExplore 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 objectsExplore size and distance (e.g., big rocket, far away planet)Create repeating patterns with stars or shapesSequence a space journey using simple steps |
| Expressive arts | Self-portraits using various media (crayons, paint, collage)Exploring colours and shapes to represent emotionsCreating family and friends portraitsSinging songs about self and familyExploring sounds and rhythms using body percussionCreating simple musical patterns with instruments | Nature-inspired art (leaf rubbings, flower paintings)Creating landscapes using different texturesExploring environmental art and recycling materialsLearning songs about nature and the environmentUsing natural objects to create soundsExploring musical storytelling about the world | Illustrating favourite stories and fairy talesCreating puppets and props for storytellingExploring different artistic styles from various culturesSinging traditional and folk songsUsing instruments to create sound effects for storiesExploring musical narratives and character themes | Animal masks Creating animal habitats using mixed mediaExploring patterns and textures in animal artLearning songs about animalsUsing instruments to mimic animal soundsCreating musical stories about animal adventures | Drawing and painting homes and buildingsCreating models of homes using various materialsExploring architectural styles and designsSinging songs about home and familyExploring sounds and rhythms found at homeCreating musical compositions inspired by home life | Space-themed art (planets, stars, rockets)Creating futuristic landscapes and citiesExploring abstract art inspired by spaceLearning songs about space and explorationUsing electronic sounds to create space musicCreating musical compositions inspired by the universe |
| Health and Wellbeing (PSHE) | Recognise and express emotionsIdentify personal strengths and interestsDevelop self-awareness and self-esteemUnderstand personal boundaries and respect for others | Explore feelings about the environmentDevelop empathy for living thingsUnderstand the importance of caring for the worldLearn about community roles and responsibilities | Identify emotions in stories and charactersDiscuss relationships and friendships in storiesUnderstand the concept of right and wrongDevelop problem-solving skills through storytelling | Recognise and express feelings about animalsDevelop empathy and care for animalsUnderstand safety around animalsLearn about different animal habitats and their importance | Identify feelings about home and familyDevelop understanding of family roles and relationshipsUnderstand personal safety at homeLearn about healthy routines and habits | Explore feelings about the future and aspirationsDevelop understanding of personal goalsUnderstand the importance of perseverance and resilienceLearn about safety in different environments |
| Health and Wellbeing (PE) | Fundamental movement skillsCoordination through footworkStatic Balance – exploring standing on one leg | Dynamic balance to AgilityStatic Balance – exploring stanceExploring jumping and landingSeated Balance | Coordination – Ball skillsCoordination – sending and receivingCounterbalanceAgility – Reaction and response | Agility – Ball chasingStatic balance – floor workBalance and controlDynamic Balance | Control and consistencyHealthy competitionCooperative gamesPersonal best challenges | Team gamesAgility and response Strategic decision making during competitive gamesVariety of movements with good body tension |
| Humanities | Understanding personal history and familyExploring personal identity and cultureRecognizing important people in our lives | Exploring different environments and habitatsUnderstanding weather and seasonsLearning about different countries and cultures | Introduction to historical events and figuresUnderstanding the concept of past and presentExploring myths, legends, and stories from different cultures | Learning about different animals and their habitatsUnderstanding the needs of living thingsExploring the concept of conservation and caring for animals | Understanding different types of homes and buildingsExploring local community and landmarksLearning about safety and roles within the community | Introduction to space and the solar systemUnderstanding the concept of exploration and discoveryLearning 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. |