



Blue Planet



EYFS Autumn 1 2026

Blue Planet

By the end of this unit children will...

- Establish classroom rules and routines.
- See themselves as a valuable individual.
- Build constructive and respectful relationships.
- Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others.
- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.
- Manage their own needs, such as dressing, toileting and eating.
- Discuss who is special to them
- Return to and build on their previous learning.
- Safely use and explore a variety of tools, materials and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.

Intent	Implementation	Impact	Celebrate
Launch day- children to come in dressed as an animals linked to the theme Blue planet. We will talk about the variety of animals that they have come as, where they are from and why they are the children's favourite.	We will be learning about the world around us this term through the lens of under the sea, exploring the animals and habitat. We will be using our underwater role play to retell animal behaviours and to create our own under water world too, using the backdrops and props. This will help our understating of our blue planet leading us to create our own 3D underwater animals with their own sea animal themed words and phrases.	Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering own ideas. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly. Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.	At the end of term whole school celebration, we will share our learning and showcase our 3D animals and underwater scenes in front of parents/carers.

Curriculum Links	Birth to Three	Three and Four Year Olds	Children in Reception	Early Learning Goals (ELG)
Communication and Language	• Understand simple instructions like “give to mummy” or “stop”. • Recognise and point to objects if asked about them. • Generally focus on an activity of their own choice and find it difficult to be directed by an adult. • Listen to other people’s talk with interest but can easily be distracted by other things. • Can become frustrated when they can’t make themselves understood. • Start to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions. • Start to develop conversation, often jumping from topic to topic. • Develop pretend play: ‘putting the baby to sleep’ or ‘driving the car to the shops’. • Use the speech sounds p, b, m, w. • Usually still learning to pronounce:	• Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens • Can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one thing at a time. • Use a wider range of vocabulary • Understand a question or instruction that has two parts • Understand ‘why’ questions • Sing a large repertoire of songs • Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books and be able to tell a long story • Develop communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals such as ‘runned’ for ran ‘swimmed’ for swam. May have problems saying some sounds • Use longer sentences of four to six words • Be able to express a point of view and to	• Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important. • Learn new vocabulary. • Use new vocabulary through the day. • Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them. • Use new vocabulary in different contexts. • Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound. • Learn rhymes, poems and songs. • Engage in non-fiction books • Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. • Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives. • Describe events in some detail. • Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work	• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. • Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. • Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers. • Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussion, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

	l/r/w/y, f/th, s/sh/ch/dz/j, multi-syllabic words such as 'banana' and 'computer' - Listen to simple stories and understand what is happening, with the help of the pictures. - Identify familiar objects and properties for practitioners when they are described. For example: 'Katie's coat', 'blue car', 'shiny apple'. - Understand and act on longer sentences like 'make teddy jump' or 'find your coat'. - Understand simple questions about 'who', 'what' and 'where' (but generally not 'why').	debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. - Can start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns. - Use talk to organise themselves and their play	and why they might happen. - Develop social phrases. - Engage in story times. - Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding. - Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text; some as exact repetition and some in their own words. - Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.	Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.
PSED	- Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know their key person is nearby and available. - Feel confident when taken out around the local neighbourhood and enjoy exploring new places with their key person.	- Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them. - Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.	- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally. - Manage their own needs: - personal hygiene. - Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: - regular physical activity - healthy eating - toothbrushing - sensible	- Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly - Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate

	• Feel strong enough to express a range of emotions. • Grow in independence, rejecting help ("me do it"). Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustration and tantrums. • Begin to show 'effortful control'. For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front. • Be increasingly able to talk about and manage their emotions. • Notice and ask questions about differences, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender, special needs and disabilities, and so on. • Develop friendships with other children • Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories. • Are talking about their feelings in more elaborated ways: "I'm	• Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting. • Show more confidence in new social situations. • Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas. • Help to find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas. • Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important. Do not always need an adult to remind them of a rule. • Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Talk with others to solve conflicts. • Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'. • Begin to understand how others might be feeling.	amounts of 'screen time' - having a good sleep routine - being a safe pedestrian • See themselves as a valuable individual. • Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. • Build constructive and respectful relationships. • Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others. • Think about the perspectives of others.	• Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions • Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge • Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly • Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices • Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others • Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers • Show sensitivity
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	sad because..." or "I love it when ...".			to their own and to others' needs.
Physical Development	• Gradually gain control of their whole body through continual practice of large movements, such as waving, kicking, rolling, crawling and walking. • Clap and stamp to music. • Fit themselves into spaces, like tunnels, dens and large boxes, and move around in them. • Enjoy starting to kick, throw and catch balls. • Build independently with a range of appropriate resources. • Begin to walk independently – choosing appropriate props to support at first. • Walk, run, jump and climb – and start to use the stairs independently. • Spin, roll and independently use ropes and swings (for example, tyre swings). • Sit on a push-along wheeled toy, use a scooter or ride a tricycle.	• Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes, and bikes) and ball skills. • Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet. • Skip, hop, stand on one leg, and hold a pose for a game like musical statues. • Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks. • Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams. • Are increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm. • Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to	• Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired: - rolling – crawling – walking – jumping – running – hopping – skipping - climbing • Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace. • Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming. • Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor. • Combine different movements with ease and fluency.	• Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others • Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing • Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing • Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. • Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery. • Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing

	• Develop manipulation and control. • Explore different materials and tools. • Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example manage buttons and zips, and pour drinks. • Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress. • Learn to use the toilet with help, and then independently.	crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width. • Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel. • Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks. • Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. • Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. • Start to eat independently and learning how to use a knife and fork. • Show a preference for a dominant hand. • Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips.	• Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group. • Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility. • Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming. • Develop confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball. • Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons. • Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient. • Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully: -	
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		• Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g., brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing, and drying their hands thoroughly. • Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.	lining up and queuing - mealtimes	
Literacy	• Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo. • Say some of the words in songs and rhymes. • Copy finger movements and other gestures. • Sing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing. • Enjoy sharing books with an adult. • Pay attention and responds to the pictures or the words. • Have favourite books and seeks them out, to share with an adult, with another child, or to look at alone.	• Understand the five key concepts about print: - print has meaning. - print can have different purposes. - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom. - the names of the different parts of a book page sequencing • Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: - spot and suggest rhymes. - count or clap syllables in a word. - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother. • Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.	• Re-read books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment. • Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them. • Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences. • Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them. • Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme. • Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-	• Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary • Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories • Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role-play • Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs • Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending

	• Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories. • Ask questions about the book. Makes comments and shares their own ideas. • Develop play around favourite stories using props. • Notice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo. • Enjoy drawing freely. • Add some marks to their drawings, which they give meaning to. For example: "That says mummy." • Make marks on their picture to stand for their name.	• Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; write 'm' for mummy. • Write some or all their name. • Write some letters accurately.	sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words. • Form lower-case and capital letters correctly. • Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s/. • Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop. • Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense. • Write some or all their name.	• Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words • Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed • Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters • Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others
Maths	• React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items. • Compare amounts, saying 'lots', 'more' or 'same'. • Counting-like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing or saying some numbers in sequence.	• Fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually [subitising] • Recite numbers past 5. • Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5. • Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of	• Count objects, actions and sounds. • Subitise. • Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. • Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers.	• Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number • Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 • Automatically recall (without reference to

	- Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - '1-2-3-5.' - Climb and squeezing selves into different types of spaces. - Build with a range of resources. - Complete inset puzzles. - Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'. - Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns.	objects tells you how many there are in total [cardinal principle] - Show 'finger numbers' up to 5. - Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match a numeral, up to 5. - Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. - Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. - Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than' - Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes [circles, rectangles, triangles, and cuboids] Using informal and mathematical language: Sides Corners Straight Flat Round - Understand position through words alone – the bag is under the table. With no pointing. - Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations using	- Explore the composition of numbers to 10. - Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–5 and some to 10. - Count beyond ten. - Compare numbers. - Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills. - Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can. - Continue, copy and create repeating patterns. - Compare length, weight and capacity.	rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts - Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system - Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity - Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally
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		words like 'in front of' and 'behind' • Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight, and capacity. • Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof etc. • Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle etc • Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, design on rugs, wallpaper Use informal language like 'pointy' spotty' 'blobs' • Extend and create ABAB patterns, sticks, leaf, stick, leaf Notice and correct an error in repeating pattern. • Begin to describe a sequence of events real or fictional using words such as first, then.		
Understanding The World	• Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.	• Use all their senses in hands on exploration of natural materials. Explore collections of	• Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.	• Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion,

	• Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips. • Make connections between the features of their family and other families. • Notice differences between people.	materials with similar and/or different properties. Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. • Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history. • Show interest in different occupations. • Explore how things work • Plant seeds and care for growing plants. • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. • Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. • Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people. • Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the	• Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past. • Talk about members of their immediate family and community. • Name and describe people who are familiar to them. • Understand that some places are special to members of their community. • Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. • Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. • Draw information from a simple map. • Explore the natural world around them. • Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. • Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. • Understand the effect of changing seasons on the	stories, non-fiction texts and maps • Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class • Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps • Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society • Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class • Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books
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		differences they have experienced or seen in photos.	natural world around them	read in class and storytelling • Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants • Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class • Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter
Expressive Arts and Design	• Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds. • Explore a range of sound-makers and instruments and play them in different ways. • Notice patterns with strong contrasts and be attracted by patterns resembling the human face.	• Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar. • Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc.	• Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. • Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. • Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.	• Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function • Share their creations, explaining the process they have used • Make use of props and materials when role

	• Start to make marks intentionally. • Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools. • Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make. • Enjoy and take part in action songs, such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' • Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another. For example, a child holds a wooden block to her ear and pretends it's a phone. • Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. • Manipulate and play with different materials. • Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials. • Make simple models which express their ideas.	• Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park. • Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. • Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. • Join different materials and explore different textures. • Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects. • Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details. • Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises. • Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness,	• Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses. • Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses. • Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody. • Develop storylines in their pretend play. • Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.	playing characters in narratives and stories • Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher • Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs • Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music
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		sadness, fear etc. Explore colour and colour mixing. • Show different emotions in their drawings – happiness, sadness, fear etc. • Listen with increased attention to sounds. • Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings. • Remember and sing entire songs. Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match'). • Sing the melodic shape. (moving melody, such as up) and down, down, and up) of familiar songs. • Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know. • Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas		
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