



Our Curriculum

At the Cottage Nursery we aim to nurture children in a happy, safe environment and give every child the tools they need to grow to full potential.

We follow the Birth to 5 matters Guidance to help us track and assess children's development across all seven areas of learning.

For more information on Birth to 5 Matters: <https://birthto5matters.org.uk/download-or-buy-a-copy/>

Every child will have a paper learning journey completed by their key person which will track their development and give parents an insight into the fun they have at nursery. Your key person will complete regular assessments to track your child's progress.

We track and assess development through the following documents as part of our learning journey:

- Two-year checks to be completed at 2.5 years old.
- A 'My achievements' review at the end of each term.
- Wellcomm can be completed for children who need a little extra support with language development
- A school report to be completed at the end of their time in Lions.

Planning at The Cottage Nursery:

Our planning over the academic year is based around the children's interests, key events and celebrations with the emphasis on supporting each child's individual needs and encouraging them to be strong, resilient learners with a "willing to have a go" attitude. Each room has an individual weekly planning sheet with exciting and purposeful activities covering all areas of learning to create a stimulating and challenging environment.

Each child will also be set 'Next steps' created by their key person tailored to their interests and individual learning needs to help them progress to their full potential.



Our curriculum for each room is as follows:

Cubs

- **PSE** Build a strong bond and secure relationship with my key person and buddy.
- **C+L** Develop my babbling and sounds and may even begin to say some basic words.
- **PD** Begin to explore my fine and gross motor skills and start moving my body.
- **Lit** Enjoy looking at and reading stories with my key person.
- **Math** Begin to explore problem solving during play and enjoy posting activities.
- **UTW** Explore a wide range of materials during play and develop a curious nature to explore their environment.
- **EAD** Begin to show enjoyment of music and nursery rhymes.
- **EAD** Begin to use my senses to explore a wide range of media and textures.

Tigers

- **PSE** Play alongside others and develop confidence to explore my environment using my key person and buddy as a secure base.
- **C+L** Use two words together and begin to follow simple instructions with my key person's support.
- **PD** Gain more control of my motor skills, allowing me to explore mark marking and explore using my body with purpose.
- **Lit** Begin to develop an interest in books by looking at them independently and be able to listen to a short story supported by an adult.
- **Math** Begin to use number names randomly and then in sequence (1-5) and begin to notice patterns/similarities in objects.
- **UTW** Develop imaginative play by engaging in small world/role play and begin to notice the world around them.
- **EAD** Explore messy play with increasing curiosity and enjoyment and explore using my body to make marks.



Our Curriculum for each room is as follows:

Panthers

- **PSE** Begin to play with my peers and build friendships.
- **C+L** Understand and ask simple questions and develop my vocabulary to allow me to hold conversations with adults and my peers.
- **PD** Strengthen my gross and fine motor skills to allow me to show independence and understanding of self-care routines.
- **Lit** Develop a love for reading by looking at books with an adult or independently. Be able to recall familiar parts from our core books.
- **Math** Use mathematical language relating to numbers, size and shape during play.
- **UTW** Show excitement to explore my environment both inside and outside.
- **UTW** Express my imagination and experiences through role play.
- **EAD** Enjoy music and singing and begin mark making with a purpose.

Lions

- **PSE** Develop confidence, independence and self-belief whilst being able to self-regulate my emotions and recognise my peer's emotions.
- **C+L** Use a wide range of vocabulary and be able to communicate my needs and ideas to others.
- **PD** Display independence in selfcare routines and show strong motor skills allowing me to use one handed tools and a strong pencil grip.
- **Lit** Be able to talk about my favourite stories and even make up my own.
- **Lit** Understand that print has meaning and be able to notice print in my environment.
- **Math** Be able to make comparisons between objects, match numerals to amounts and begin to use my understanding of numbers and mathematical concepts to solve problems.
- **UTW** Display a curious impulse to learn how things work and grow.
- **EAD** Enjoy expressing my imagination, ideas and personality through role play, music and art.
- Develop a 'can do' attitude and an enthusiastic approach to learning.



How our curriculum is implemented across the nursery:

Festivals

At The Cottage nursery we celebrate Easter and Christmas with all our families. The Panthers and Lions have a carol concert that parents are invited to attend. Parents are also invited to attend a craft morning each term. This gives parents the chance to spend some time with their key person and join in with some fun activities with their child. We select and celebrate festivals that have importance to our families that are currently attending that academic year. Parents are encouraged to come in and share significant events with the children about the different festivals they celebrate as a family. Parents and carers are all encouraged to come in to share stories with the children in their home language, share a skill or talk about their job.

Parent and children's lending library

At The Cottage Nursery, we encourage a love of reading and want to share with families the benefits that reading can have on language development and building warm relationships between children and their carers. To encourage this, we offer a parent and children lending library. The children lending library offers both fiction and non-fiction stories covering all areas of Birth to 5 Matters. We even offer stories in other languages for our EAL children. The parent lending library offers factual books, providing support or advice for their child's development.

Core books

Each room has the same core books to encourage language development and a love of reading. These books are shared with the children regularly across all rooms with activities or story sacks alongside to spark creativity and imagination.

Our current core books are:

- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
- Superworm by Julia Donaldson
- There's an alien in your book by Tom Fletcher
- My first 100 things that go by Priddy Books
- Cows in the kitchen by Child's Play
- Oi Frog by Kes Gray and Jim Field



How our curriculum is implemented across the nursery:

Bedtime/Travelling bear

Cubs and Tigers have a bedtime bear. Each child gets the opportunity to take the bedtime bear home and have the bear join their bedtime routine at home. Panthers and Lions have a travelling bear to join them in their weekend activities. Parents and carers are encouraged to share photos and insights of their time with the bears for the children to look through together in their room.

Sports club for Panthers and Lions

The children in the Panthers and Lions rooms participate in a 30-minute sports session to encourage being active and having a healthy lifestyle. The lions also have a sports day in the summer term, followed by a picnic with their parents and carers.

Activity bags for home learning

Each room has a selection of activity bags to support each area of learning across Birth to 5 Matters. Families can take the bags home whenever they please.

Chickens

Tigers, Panthers and Lions children all take turns in caring for out pet chickens by giving them food and water and collecting the eggs. To extend this learning, each year we have Living eggs come to the nursery so children can watch the eggs hatch and learn about the life cycle of chickens.

Growing Vegetables

We have several planting areas across the nursery and a main vegetable garden based in our Lions room. The children can grow plants from seed, harvest them and then eat the end product.



Golden Rules

As part of our British Values, we have golden rules which encourage positive behaviour throughout the nursery. These are easily transferable to home with supports our partnership with parents. Our golden rules are:

- To have kind and gentle hands.
- To share our toys with our friends and take turns.
- To use walking feet inside.
- To say please and thank you.
- To use kind words.
- To help tidy away our toys.

Phonics

Phonics is all around us in the nursery and all staff are encouraged to use different opportunities to further children's development. In our Lions room the children have a phonics lesson each day using a variety of resources and games. For example Mrs Browning's Box, rhyming games, and listening games.

Forest School

The Children in Lions attend a weekly Forest School session which is run during term time. The Forest School session is run by a fully qualified Forest School leader. We aim to do sessions in all weathers unless the weather is too extreme. Children are encouraged to explore nature in a safe and respectful way, along with taking risks, and working as a team.