

# Personal Development Curriculum

The Woodland Federation  
2025-26



# Trips programme

Our trips programme is designed to extend children's experiences beyond their immediate environment and bring learning to life. Visiting museums, cultural sites, natural spaces, and places of local interest allows pupils to connect classroom learning with the wider world. These experiences help to build curiosity, cultural capital, and confidence, enabling children to see and understand things that they may not otherwise encounter. Providing rich, first-hand experiences is therefore a key priority of the federation, as we recognise the important role that trips play in broadening horizons and deepening understanding.

To ensure that all pupils benefit from these opportunities, each class participates in at least one educational visit every term. Trips are carefully planned so that they link meaningfully to the curriculum and support the learning taking place in class. Whether exploring historical sites, engaging with nature, or taking part in workshops and performances, these visits are designed to be purposeful, memorable, and inclusive experiences that enrich the children's education throughout the year.

We are committed to ensuring that every child can access the trips programme, including disadvantaged pupils. Participation is carefully monitored so that any barriers can be identified early. Where needed, financial support is provided to ensure that cost does not prevent children from taking part. We also work closely with parents and carers, and involve children in preparing for visits so that they feel confident and excited about the experience. By making trips engaging, well-prepared, and a familiar part of school life, we help ensure that all children can participate fully and benefit from the opportunities they provide.



# Rosemoor

## Owls - Spring



RHS Rosemoor is less than 20 minutes away from our school. Our youngest pupils experience their first trip to Rosemoor, learning about nature. Pupils take part in guided activities that are relevant to the curriculum.

**Curriculum links:** *Knowledge & understanding of the world*



# Devon Railway centre

## Owls - Summer



Our youngest pupils visit the Railway centre to experience trains and learn about how railways work. During the visit, pupils explore the site and take part in activities that help them understand transport, technology and how things operate in the world around them.

**Curriculum links:** *Knowledge & understanding of the world*



# Rosemoor

## Year 1 - Autumn



RHS Rosemoor is less than 20 minutes away from our school. Pupils revisit Rosemoor, learning about nature. Pupils take part in guided activities that are relevant to the curriculum, learning about who lives in our gardens and how plants grow.

**Curriculum links:** Science



# Exmoor Zoo

Year 1 - Spring



Year 1 pupils visit the zoo to learn about different animals and their habitats. During the trip, pupils observe a variety of species and take part in activities that help them understand how animals live, what they eat and how they are cared for.

**Curriculum links:** Science – Animals including humans; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Westward Ho! and Northam Burrows

Year 1 & 2 - Summer



Westward Ho! beach and Northam Burrows Country Park provide an excellent opportunity for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to explore their local coastal environment. During the visit, pupils investigate natural features such as sand dunes, rock pools and the shoreline. They take part in activities such as beach exploration, simple fieldwork and observing plants and animals that live in coastal habitats. The trip helps pupils develop curiosity about the natural world while learning how environments change and why it is important to care for them.

**Curriculum links:** Geography – The local environment and fieldwork skills; Science – Living things and their habitats; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Theatre Visit

## Year 2 - Autumn



Year 2 pupils visit the theatre to watch a performance of *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. This trip brings a well-known story to life and helps pupils develop a deeper enjoyment of reading and storytelling. During the visit, pupils experience live theatre, exploring how characters, music, costumes and stage design help to tell a story. The trip encourages imagination and supports pupils' understanding of narrative, characters and performance.

**Curriculum links:** English – Traditional and familiar stories; Spoken language and listening skills; Expressive arts and design.



# West Town Farm

Year 2 - Spring



Year 2 pupils visit West Town Farm to learn about farming and where food comes from. During the visit, pupils explore the farm, meet different animals and learn about how crops are grown and cared for. The trip helps pupils understand the role of farms in providing food and caring for the environment.

**Curriculum links:** Science – Animals including humans; Geography – The local environment; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Farmwise

## Year 3 - Autumn



Year 3 pupils visit Farmwise to learn about farming, food production and the countryside. During the visit, pupils take part in interactive activities where they meet farmers, see farm animals and learn how food is produced from farm to fork. The trip helps pupils understand the importance of agriculture and how farming supports communities and the environment.

**Curriculum links:** Science – Animals including humans; Geography – Land use and the countryside; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Exeter Cathedral

Year 3 - Autumn



Year 3 pupils travel by train to visit Exeter Cathedral, where they explore its history, architecture and importance within the local community. During the visit, pupils take part in guided activities that help them discover how the cathedral was built, learn about the people who worked there in the past, and observe the stunning stained-glass windows and intricate carvings. The trip supports pupils in understanding how historical buildings shape our culture and offers an exciting opportunity to experience a significant landmark firsthand.

**Curriculum links:** History – Significant places and buildings; Geography – Local area study; Religious Education – Places of worship; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Kents Cavern

Year 3 - Spring



Year 3 pupils visit Kents Cavern to explore one of Britain's most important prehistoric caves and learn about life in the Stone Age. During the visit, pupils take part in guided tours where they discover ancient rock formations, see where early humans once sheltered, and handle replica artefacts that help bring prehistoric history to life. The trip helps pupils understand how people lived thousands of years ago and supports their learning about timelines, archaeology and early human development.

**Curriculum links:** History – Stone Age to Iron Age; Science – Rocks and fossils; Geography – Physical geography; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Eden Project

## Year 4 - Autumn



Year 4 pupils visit the Eden Project to explore its incredible biomes and learn about plants, habitats and the natural world. During the visit, pupils take part in hands-on workshops and guided activities where they discover how different environments support life, observe a wide variety of plant species and learn about sustainability and protecting our planet. The trip helps pupils understand the importance of caring for the environment and inspires them to think about how humans can work with nature to create a greener future.

**Curriculum links:** Science – Living things and their habitats; Geography – Climate and biomes; PSHE – Sustainability and environmental responsibility; Knowledge & understanding of the world



# Energy from Waste

## Year 4 - Spring



Year 4 pupils visit the Energy-from-Waste facility in Plymouth to learn how rubbish is transformed into energy that helps power local homes and communities. During the visit, pupils take part in interactive workshops and guided tours where they discover how waste is sorted, see the machinery that turns waste into electricity and learn about recycling, sustainability and reducing our impact on the environment. The trip helps pupils understand how everyday choices affect the planet and encourages them to think about responsible ways to manage waste.

**Curriculum links:** Science – States of matter; Geography – Human geography and sustainability; PSHE – Environmental responsibility; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Stover

## Year 4 - Summer



Year 4 pupils visit Stover Country Park to explore its rich woodland, wildlife and natural habitats. During the visit, pupils take part in hands-on outdoor learning activities, including pond dipping, wildlife observation and exploring the sensory trail. They discover how plants and animals adapt to their environments and learn about the importance of conservation and looking after natural spaces. The trip helps pupils deepen their understanding of the natural world and encourages curiosity about local ecosystems and how they can protect them.

**Curriculum links:** Science – *Living things and their habitats;* Geography – *Physical geography and fieldwork;* PSHE – *Caring for the environment;* Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Morwellham Quay

## Year 5 - Autumn



Year 5 pupils visit Morwellham Quay to explore this historic riverside village and discover what life was like during the Victorian era. During the visit, pupils take part in immersive activities such as riding the mine train, learning about copper mining, and exploring traditional cottages and workshops. They observe how people lived and worked in the past, gaining insight into Victorian industry, transport and daily life. The trip helps pupils develop their understanding of historical change and offers a hands-on experience that brings their learning about Victorian Britain to life.

**Curriculum links:** History – Victorian Britain; Geography – Human geography and settlements; Science – Materials and their uses; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# River Dart Activity Centre

Year 5 & 6 – Autumn



Year 5 and 6 pupils visit the River Dart Activity Centre to take part in a range of outdoor adventures that develop teamwork, resilience and confidence. During the visit, pupils participate in exciting activities such as climbing, problem-solving challenges, orienteering and bushcraft, helping them to build new skills while connecting with the natural environment. The trip encourages pupils to push themselves safely, work collaboratively and discover the importance of perseverance. It also supports their understanding of outdoor learning and the value of staying active and healthy.

**Curriculum links:** PE – Outdoor and adventurous activities; PSHE – Teamwork, resilience and personal development; Geography – Fieldwork and physical geography; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Morwellham Quay

## Year 5 - Autumn



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**Curriculum links:** History – Victorian Britain; Geography – Human geography and settlements; Science – Materials and their uses; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# We the curious

Year 5 - Summer



Year 5 pupils visit We The Curious to explore a wide range of hands-on science exhibits that encourage curiosity, questioning and discovery. During the visit, pupils take part in interactive workshops, experiment with scientific equipment and investigate topics such as forces, light, sound and the human body. They also experience the UK's first 3D digital planetarium, deepening their understanding of space and our place in the universe. The trip helps pupils develop their scientific thinking skills and supports their learning through memorable, practical experiences.

**Curriculum links:** Science – Forces, Earth and space, materials and scientific enquiry; Computing – Technology and digital exploration; PSHE – Curiosity, problem-solving and collaborative learning; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# North Devon Wake Park

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 - Summer



KS2 pupils visit North Devon Wake Park to take part in a range of exciting outdoor water-based activities that help build confidence, coordination and teamwork. During the visit, pupils experience sports such as kneeboarding, wakeboarding and the aqua park obstacle course, developing new physical skills in a safe and supportive environment. They learn about water safety, listen to expert instructors and discover how perseverance and resilience help them overcome challenges. The trip encourages pupils to stay active, work together and enjoy adventurous learning beyond the classroom.

**Curriculum links:** PE – Outdoor and adventurous activities; PSHE – Teamwork, resilience and personal growth; Science – Forces and movement; Knowledge & understanding of the world.



# Residential programme

Our residential programme begins in Year 3, when pupils take part in their first one-night stay away from home. This introductory experience focuses on developing confidence, independence and responsibility in a gentle, supportive environment. Pupils enjoy spending time with their classmates, taking part in shared routines and learning what it feels like to be away from home as a group for the very first time.

In Year 4, pupils build on this foundation with a one-night residential that includes a city-break experience in Bristol. This visit helps pupils learn how to navigate a busier urban environment, understand features of a large city and explore places of cultural and educational interest. The residential gives pupils the chance to further develop independence, strengthen friendships and grow in self-management as they prepare for longer stays in later years.

By Year 5, pupils take part in a two-night residential that allows them to deepen their independence, social skills and sense of responsibility. Staying away for longer helps pupils manage themselves, work collaboratively and adapt confidently to new routines. In Year 6, pupils experience two residentials—one lasting two nights and another lasting one night—including a city-break in London. These opportunities help pupils reflect on their learning journey, prepare for the transition to secondary school and create lasting memories with their peers.



# Camping

1 night – Year 3

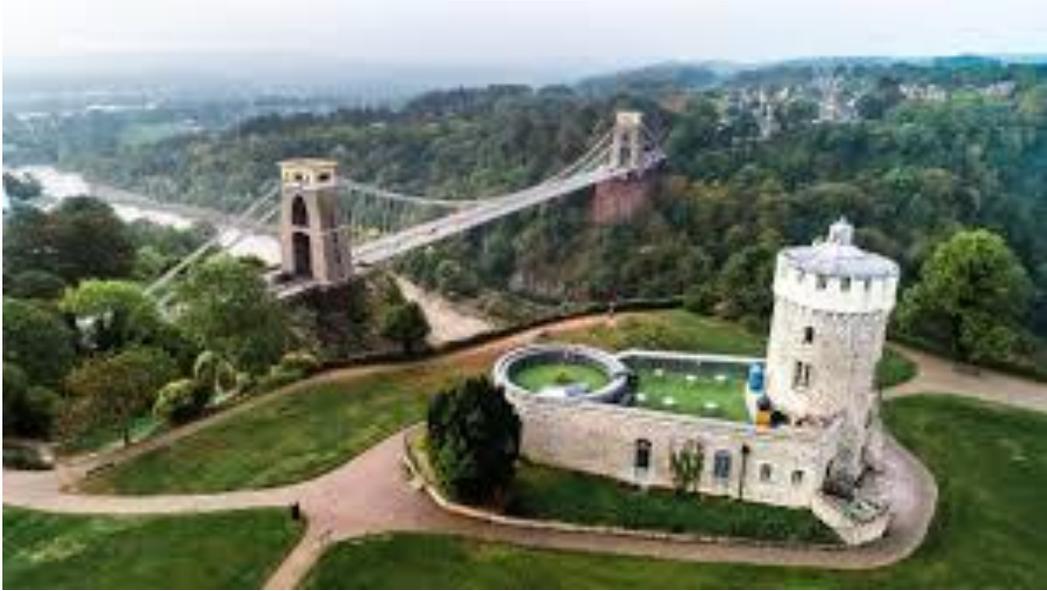


- Clip and climb
- Erecting tents
- Forest school activities
- Fish and chip dinner
- Teambuilding and collaborative activities
- Campfire
- Packing



# Bristol

1 night – Year 4



- Travel by train
- Bristol suspension bridge
- We the curious
- SS Great Britain
- Zaza bazaar
- Youth Hostel



# Skern Lodge

2 nights – Year 5



- Teambuilding and collaborative activities
- Rafting
- High ropes
- Disco
- Shared mealtimes
- Canoeing
- Assault course
- Climbing



# London

2 nights – Year 6



- Travel by train
- Underground travel
- River cruise
- London Eye
- Lion King Theatre visit
- Harry Potter World
- Sightseeing & landmarks
- Tower of London
- Youth Hostel
- Restaurant meals



# Surfing

1 night – Year 6



- Surfing lesson
- Bodyboarding lesson
- BBQ
- Beach activities
- Teambuilding activities



# Visitors programme

Throughout the year, our school welcomes a wide range of visitors who enrich pupils' learning with real-life expertise and engaging, hands-on experiences. In the younger years, pupils meet authors, storytellers and people who help us. These visitors bring curriculum topics to life through demonstrations, performances and interactive sessions. These visits help pupils make meaningful connections between classroom learning and the wider world around them.

Visitors expand pupils' understanding of specialist subjects and global perspectives. Scientists, historians, engineers, artists and local professionals lead workshops that deepen pupils' knowledge and spark curiosity. These sessions allow pupils to ask questions, explore new ideas and gain insight into different careers, cultures and fields of study.

Our visitors-in-school programme also plays an important role in developing pupils' personal confidence and readiness for the future. Through encounters with speakers who share their experiences, achievements and challenges, pupils learn about aspiration, resilience and the many routes to success. These opportunities broaden pupils' horizons, support their personal development and help them recognise their own potential within a diverse and inspiring world.



# Visitors in school

- Clive Pig – Storyteller – **Nursery & Reception**
- Wonderstruck – Science workshops – **Whole school**
- Taiko Drumming – **Reception to Year 6**
- Police - **Reception**
- Animals 2u - **Nursery**
- South West Water – **Year 5**
- Chocolate workshop – **Year 4**
- RNLI – **Key Stage 2**
- Dance Workshop – **Reception to Year 4**
- Skateboarding – **KS2**
- EmmyLou – Artist – **Reception to Year 6**
- M&M Productions – Theatre – **Reception to Year 6**
- Cultural champions – **Reception to Year 6**
- Oly Martin – Historian – Romans – **Year 3**
- Roundhouse – Historian – Stone age – **Year 3**
- Dentist – **KS1 & Reception**
- Tiverton Museum – **Year 1**
- Author Visits – Joffre White/Ellie Jackson – **Whole school**



# Aspirational assemblies

Our aspirational assemblies programme was developed after we recognised that many pupils held limited views about their future goals and the range of careers available to them. To address this, we now invite visitors from a wide variety of professions to speak in assemblies and share their personal journeys. These sessions introduce pupils to careers they may never have encountered before and help broaden their understanding of what is possible for them in the future.

Visitors bring their roles to life by talking about their day-to-day work and the pathways that led them to their chosen careers. Pupils meet people from fields such as science, the arts, engineering, health, business and public services, and they have the chance to ask questions and learn directly from those with real-world experience. Many visitors bring artefacts, tools or items from their profession, helping pupils see how different jobs work in practice and making the learning memorable and engaging.

These assemblies play an important part in raising pupils' aspirations and building their confidence to aim high. By hearing a diverse range of stories—including challenges, successes and the importance of perseverance—pupils develop an understanding that their futures can take many different paths. The programme helps pupils believe in their own potential, encouraging them to think ambitiously about their goals and recognise the value of their learning both now and in the years ahead.



# Sport

Sport plays a vital role in supporting both the physical and mental health of our pupils. Regular physical activity helps children develop strength, stamina and coordination, while also reducing stress and boosting wellbeing. Pupils gain confidence through participation, learn the value of perseverance and enjoy the sense of achievement that comes from setting and reaching personal goals. Through sport, pupils also build positive relationships, develop teamwork skills and experience the joy of being active together.

Beyond the curriculum, we offer an extensive programme of sporting opportunities to ensure that every child can find an activity they enjoy and feel proud to take part in. Throughout the year, pupils represent the school in a wide range of inter-school fixtures and festivals, giving them the chance to experience healthy competition and collaborate as part of a team. We also host and participate in numerous sporting events that celebrate participation, effort and improvement.

Our extra-curricular sports clubs offer pupils the chance to explore different activities, develop skills further and stay active in a fun and supportive environment. Pupils also take part in the Daily Mile, helping them experience the benefits of regular physical activity as part of their everyday routine. Together, these opportunities ensure that sport is a valued and accessible part of school life, promoting positive health habits, strengthening wellbeing and encouraging a lifelong love of being active.



# Sporting activities

- QE PE package – orienteering, cricket, rounders, netball, swimming gala, tag rugby, multiskills, handball
- Football matches
- Stephen Shield Cross country
- Monkleigh Cross country
- Kings Nympton Cross country
- Swimming
- Dance workshops
- Bikeability
- Balanceability
- Skateboarding
- Shared federation sporting events
- Utilita cup
- Exeter city sport and move project
- Exeter city stadium tour
- Exeter city football festival
- Intra sport events
- Boccia
- Aquathlon
- Fireball volleyball



# Curriculum themed days

Our curriculum-themed days are carefully designed to deepen learning in core topics and make the curriculum memorable. Each themed day is planned in step with current units—so activities, vocabulary and knowledge build directly on what pupils are studying in class. Whether the focus is a historical period, a science concept or a geographic region, pupils encounter high-quality texts, artefacts, expert visitors and practical demonstrations that bring ideas to life. This approach ensures that enrichment is not a 'bolt-on' but an integrated part of the learning journey.

Planning starts from the curriculum objectives and key knowledge. Teachers identify the precise concepts, disciplinary skills and subject-specific vocabulary that pupils need to secure, then design experiences that help pupils connect new knowledge to prior learning. Outcomes from the day feed into subsequent lessons—through retrieval activities, shared reading, structured discussion and modelled writing—so that the excitement of the day translates into progress. As a result, pupils can articulate what they have learned, apply technical vocabulary accurately and show improved independence in follow-up tasks.

Hook days launch new units with a strong sense of purpose and audience, significantly improving engagement with writing. By beginning with a compelling stimulus—such as an immersive scenario, mystery object box, expert message, or real-world brief—pupils have a clear reason to write. Teachers then channel this motivation into well-scaffolded outcomes: vocabulary collection, sentence-level practice, short bursts of writing and extended pieces (e.g., reports, letters, explanations, narratives). Schools typically see higher writing stamina, richer vocabulary choices and greater pride in presentation after hook days, because pupils feel invested in the topic and understand who they are writing for and why.



# Curriculum enrichment

- PSHE Day – with cultural champion
- World book day
- Geography Day
- Half termly writing hook days
- Music day – including visiting musician
- Safer internet day
- Art day – including visiting artist
- KS1 Music festival with local schools
- Science day – with Wonderstruck
- Garden days
- Forest school sessions

## Safer Internet Day



# Community engagement

Community engagement is a central part of our school's ethos, helping pupils understand the importance of belonging, contribution and shared responsibility. Throughout the year, pupils take part in activities that build strong links with the local community, from supporting charitable projects to participating in festivals, joint events and local initiatives. These experiences help pupils recognise their place within the wider community and understand how positive actions can make a meaningful difference to others.

We work closely with a variety of local partners, including community groups, emergency services, cultural organisations and small businesses. Visitors regularly come into school to share their expertise, run workshops and support curriculum learning, while our pupils also visit community venues, perform at local events and take part in collaborative projects. These interactions help pupils see the relevance of their learning beyond the classroom and develop respect for the many people who contribute to their local area.

Our community engagement programme also plays an important role in developing pupils' personal values, such as empathy, responsibility and active citizenship. Through fundraising, volunteering opportunities and awareness-raising events, pupils gain a deeper understanding of social issues and learn how small actions can create positive change. By working together with the community, pupils develop confidence, pride and a sense of shared purpose—essential qualities that prepare them to be thoughtful, engaged citizens now and in the future.



# Community links

- Colour run
- Carol service
- Harvest service
- Carol singing
- Art exhibition (Remembrance)
- Spring art exhibition
- War memorial visit (Remembrance)
- Weekly toddler group
- Invitations to events such as Grand Opening, cream tea, Christmas dinner, Bake off



# Parental engagement

Parental engagement is at the heart of our approach, as we recognise that children achieve their best when school and families work closely together. We actively build strong, trusting relationships with parents through open communication, regular updates and a welcoming environment where questions, concerns and successes can be shared. By involving parents in learning we ensure they feel confident and supported in helping their children thrive.

Working in partnership allows us to identify needs and barriers to learning as early as possible. Staff listen carefully to parents' insights and observations, combining this with classroom assessments and professional expertise to build a clear picture of each child's needs. Whether the barrier relates to academic progress, wellbeing, attendance, confidence or home circumstances, early identification means that appropriate support can be put in place promptly. Parents are kept closely involved in decision-making, ensuring that strategies are consistent at school and at home.

This proactive and collaborative approach helps us tailor support that genuinely makes a difference. Pupils benefit from targeted interventions, structured provision, pastoral care and regular check-ins, all designed to remove barriers and build success. Parents feel empowered, informed and included in their child's learning journey, while pupils gain the reassurance that the adults around them are working together in their best interests. Through strong partnerships with families, we create a supportive, nurturing and aspirational environment where every child is able to flourish.



# Parental engagement events

- Family breakfast (half termly)
- Open morning (half termly)
- Family lunches
- Involvement in writing hook days
- Toddler sessions (weekly)
- Stay and play sessions (half termly)
- Cake sales
- Colour run
- Class welcome meetings
- Parent's evenings (twice per year)
- Invitation to sporting events
- Weekend open events
- Christmas productions
- Santa Run
- Hot chocolate events
- Pizza takeaway events



# Extra-curricular clubs

Enrichment is a valued part of our school offer, providing pupils with opportunities to broaden their interests, develop new skills and discover talents beyond the classroom. We design a rich programme that complements the curriculum, giving pupils experiences that deepen their learning, build confidence and help them explore the wider world. These activities support the development of the whole child and ensure that every pupil has access to enjoyable and meaningful opportunities that extend their learning.

Our extra-curricular clubs run throughout the year and offer a wide range of activities to suit different interests and strengths. From creative arts and cookery to sports, music, technology and problem-solving clubs, pupils are encouraged to try new things and pursue areas they enjoy. These clubs help pupils build friendships, grow in independence and gain a sense of pride in developing skills that may not always be visible in classroom lessons. Participation also strengthens pupils' wellbeing by giving them enjoyable outlets for creativity, curiosity and collaboration.

We also provide wrap-around care that goes beyond childcare by offering high-quality enrichment opportunities. Sessions include practical activities such as cookery, craft, construction, art and small group projects, giving pupils a calm, supportive space to explore their interests before and after school. This provision supports families by offering flexible care, while ensuring pupils continue to learn, play and socialise in a safe, nurturing environment. Through our enrichment, extra-curricular and wrap-around offer, we aim to inspire pupils, build their confidence and help them flourish in every aspect of school life.



# Extra-curricular clubs offer

- Running club
- Flute club
- Recorder club
- Football club
- Gardening club
- Cookery club
- Christmas cake club
- Christmas craft club
- Art club
- Construction club



# Weekly enrichment sessions

Our weekly enrichment sessions are designed to broaden pupils' knowledge and skills beyond the classroom curriculum, giving them meaningful opportunities to learn through real-life, practical experiences. These sessions introduce pupils to important life skills such as cookery, financial management, sewing, gardening, outdoor learning and public speaking. By offering a diverse range of activities, pupils gain confidence, independence and a deeper understanding of the world around them. These experiences complement the formal curriculum while equipping pupils with valuable skills they will use throughout their lives.

A key feature of our enrichment programme is the opportunity for pupils to work in vertical 'tree groups', mixing with peers from different year groups across the school. This structure encourages collaboration, leadership and positive relationships beyond usual classroom boundaries. Older pupils have the chance to model skills and guide younger children, while younger pupils benefit from the support and encouragement of those with more experience. This mixed-age approach helps build a strong sense of community, belonging and shared responsibility across the school.

As part of the programme, pupils also take part in 'Nurture in Nursery' sessions, where they work with our youngest children to support play, early communication and social-emotional development. These sessions help older pupils develop empathy, patience and confidence as they take on nurturing roles, while Nursery children benefit from positive interactions with older role models. Together, our enrichment sessions create a rich, purposeful learning environment where pupils develop essential life skills, build strong relationships and grow into capable, thoughtful and well-rounded learners.

