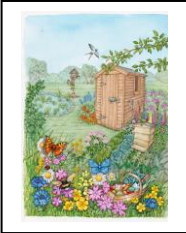


# Dunmore Primary School

## Explorers Curriculum Newsletter – Summer Term 1 2026



Our Theme this Term	Communication and Language
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In My Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will be growing lots of different plants in our garden area and hope to be able to taste some of the things we grow.</li> <li>We will look for insects living in our playground and think about their habitat.</li> <li>We will learn about the life cycle of plants and animals.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to share stories with the children looking for new vocabulary and experiences.</li> <li>We will build on our listening skills as we explore books, videos, photographs and artefacts.</li> <li>We enjoy using rhymes, poems and songs.</li> <li>We love to give the children the chance to share their experiences with each other. We can use Tapestry to show photos of special things they have done at home.</li> </ul>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development
<p>We will be helping the children to gain as much independence as possible over the summer term so that they are ready for their transition into Year 1. You can help us with this by encouraging them to dress themselves, do up buttons and zips, use the bathroom independently and look after their belongings in school.</p> <p>We will also continue to think about how to build positive relationships and look after our friends.</p>	<p>Fine motor skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding a pencil using tripod grip</li> <li>Regular letter formation practice</li> <li>Cutting skills</li> </ul> <p>Gross motor skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor play available whatever the weather</li> <li>Building, climbing, balancing</li> <li>PE lessons – Athletics</li> </ul>
Literacy	Mathematics
<p>Daily phonics sessions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognising sounds (look out on Tapestry for which sounds we are learning each week)</li> <li>Reading words and sentences</li> <li>Letter formation</li> <li>Segmenting words for spelling</li> <li>Writing simple labels, captions and sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing 3D shapes – sphere, cube, cuboid, cylinder, pyramid, cone.</li> <li>Investigate properties of shapes.</li> <li>Counting beyond 10.</li> <li>Working with numbers to 20.</li> <li>Shape patterns and pictures.</li> </ul>
Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will learn the names of some familiar plants and think about what they need to grow.</li> <li>We will investigate insects in our local environment, building bug hotels to observe them more closely.</li> <li>We will explore life cycles of animals and plants.</li> <li>We will think about seasonal changes and how it affects our gardens.</li> <li>We will draw simple maps of our school garden.</li> </ul>	<p>We will be drawing plants and insects very carefully after observing them closely. We will also use clay to make models of insects.</p> <p>In music we will be thinking about changing tempo and dynamics. We love playing the percussion instruments and will find ways to play them fast, slow, loud and quiet.</p>

## Important Information

<b>Reading Reminders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Please make sure you read with your child <b>at least</b> 3 times a week – we really notice the children getting this support from home, they make much quicker progress in their reading.</li><li>✓ Please ensure you sign the reading record each time you read at home.</li><li>✓ Please make sure your child's book comes to school every day so that we can read with the children regularly and change books each week.</li><li>✓ The tricky words for this term are: some, one, said, so, do, come, were, when, have and there.</li><li>✓ This term we will be sending weekend reading treat bags home with children who are making extra effort with their reading. The bags will contain books to read, a cuddly toy and a sachet of hot chocolate.</li></ul>
<b>PE</b>	Our PE day is Friday. Please make sure your child has a PE kit in school. The bag and everything in it must be named please! We will start using the field for PE this term so please make sure the children all have <b>trainers</b> in their PE kit.
<b>Forest School</b>	All the children will have 5 more sessions of Forest School before the end of the year. You will receive a message to let you know when it is your child's turn.
<b>Advance notice: Open Morning</b>	On June 17 <sup>th</sup> we will be holding an Early Years Open Morning for Nursery and Explorers families. We will send more details nearer the time but please save the date and be prepared for some lovely singing and craft activities with your children.
<b>Name writing challenge</b>	We would love to send all of our Explorers to Year 1 able to write their own name, so this term we are setting the children a challenge. If every child in the class is able to write their name independently by half term, we will have a fun class celebration. Please help us achieve this by practising name writing at home.

### Requests to Parents

- PLEASE make sure that all items of clothing are named! This is especially important now that the weather has warmed up.
- Please remember that we only allow water in water bottles. The children may bring a different drink for their lunch.
- Please make sure the children have sunhats and that you have applied sun cream at home before school. Our playground does not have a lot of shade and we want to keep the children safe.

## Key Dates

- ✓ Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Coffee morning for parents of service children
- ✓ Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank holiday, school closed
- ✓ Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Early Years Sports day 1:30pm
- ✓ Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Last day of term (finish at 3.15pm)
- ✓ Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Summer Term 2 begins