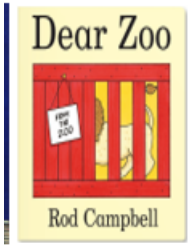
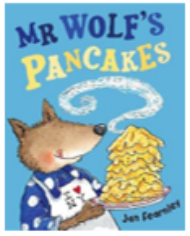
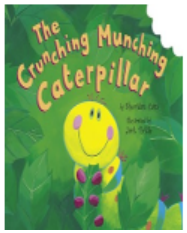
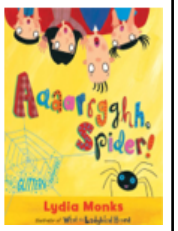
Squires Lane Nursery Curriculum Map 2026-2027

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Main Theme	**Rhythms and Rhymes**	**Celebrations**	**Out and About**	**Animals**	**In the Garden**	**Once Upon a Time**
Possible lines of enquiry / mini themes	Nursery rhymes Sounds all around Me and my family Autumn and harvest	Celebrating festivals - Diwali - Hanukkah - Christmas - Birthdays - Fireworks - Halloween Changing seasons and weather	Vehicles Our local area People who help us Road safety Chinese New Year	On the Farm Healthy Eating Growing seeds Animals and their babies When I was a Baby Pancake day Science Week	Dinosaurs Jungle animals Woodland animals Farm animals	Minibeasts Monsters Fairytales Mythical creatures Ocean and Pirates
Important dates	Black History Month (October) Rosh Hashanah (11th - 13th Sept) Harvest Festival (27th September)	Halloween (31st Oct) Diwali (8st Nov) Bonfire Night (5th Nov) Remembrance Day (11th Nov) Hanukkah (4th - 12th December) Christmas (25th Dec)	Lunar New Year (6th February 2027) Valentine's Day (14th Feb)	Ramadan (7th Feb-8th Mar) Shrove Tuesday (9th February Holi (22nd Mar) Mother's Day (7th Mar) Eid al-Fitr (9th/10th Mar) Easter (28th Mar) Passover (21st -29th Apr)	St George's Day (23rd Apr)	Father's Day (20th June)
Traditional Tales	Little Red Riding Hood	Goldilocks	Three Little Pigs	Jack and the Beanstalk	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	The Ugly Duckling

Core Texts	**The Colour Monster** **By Anna Llenas** **Shark in the Park** **by Nick Sharrat** **Whatever Next** **by Jill Murphy**		**Mr Wolf's Pancakes** **by Jan Fearnley** **Dear Zoo** **By Rod Campbell**		**Tanka Tanka Skunk** **by Steve Webb** **The Crunching Munching Caterpillar by Sheridan Cain** **Aaarrrgh Spider!** **by Lydia Monks**	
			 		 	
Little Wandle Rhyme Time	The Wheels on the Bus A sailor went to sea Wind the Bobbin up Hickory Dickory Dock Round and Round the Garden	Twinkle Twinkle Little Star Grand Old Duke of York	Humpty Dumpty Down at the station	Row, row row your boat Ba ba black sheep	Incy Wincy Spider Mary Mary quite contrary	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I caught a fish alive
Cooking experiences	Pitta pizzas (emotions)	Porridge vegetable/pumpkin soup	Noodle stir fry	Pancakes	Healthy food fruit caterpillars	Sandwiches
Core experiences	Autumn walk	Making salt dough Christmas decorations Festive singing show for families Potion making	Making lanterns for Chinese New Year	Making pancakes Planting seeds	Life cycle of a butterfly Frogspawn – frog life cycle Growing plants	Making sandwiches for picnic Graduation show/party

Writing Opportunities	Mark making relating to Colour Monster feelings **Places** Under the table Big paper rolled on carpet Tuff tray and glitter/salt	glitter tuff tray making different line shapes Potion recipes Christmas cards, tags for presents	Road signs/ danger signs Police badges Bus tickets	World book day- voting cards Shopping lists Frogspawn- Observational drawings	Pictures of trip and speech bubbles Labels	Making treasure maps. Messages in a bottle
UW Opportunities	All about me – I like/don't like My body and senses	Dark tent, torches, lightbox exploration Festivals Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah Spider webs (glitter)	Fire Station trip Fingerprinting- police station Looking at maps- route to fire station	Life cycle of a frog/butterfly Making pancakes Science week colour experiments Cyanotype printing	Minibeast hunt in forest area Planting seeds - what plants need to grow	Ocean creatures- characteristics
EAD Opportunities	Autumn collections **Andy Goldsworthy** Self portraits Exploring mark making with different resources and different areas	Splat painting fireworks **Jackson Pollock** Spreading/manipulating plasticine on paper Paper plate divas Salt dough Christmas decorations	**ARTIST: Tal Avitzur** Junk model buses Shape Fire station pictures	**ARTIST: Eric Carle** (American illustrator/author) **Core Art Skills:** Using tools like rollers and toothbrushes to create texture.	**ARTIST: Michelle Reader** **Core Art Skills:** Using junk modelling to create nature sculptures - minibeasts and British wildlife. Observing nature and	ARTIST: Iris Scott Monster blow painting pictures Finger painting ocean

				Tearing and layering thin tissue paper. Flower printing on fabric Mixing colours with food dye and coffee filters Natural dyes	matching paint colours to real flowers.	
SCARF	**Me and My Relationships** Marvellous me! I'm special People who are special to me	**Valuing Difference** Me and my friends Friends and family Including everyone	**Keeping Myself Safe** Safety indoors and outdoors What's safe to go into my body	**Rights and Responsibilities** Looking after myself Looking after others Looking after my environment	**Growing and Changing** Growing and changing in nature When I was a baby Girls, boys and families	**Being My Best** What does my body need? I can keep trying I can do it!
PE (Beyond the Physical)	Fundamental Skills	Play, Move, Explore	Crawl, Climb, Collect	Search, Steal, Share	Explore, Evade, Escape	Hands, Feet, Equipment
Music	Nursery Rhymes Exploring sounds using everyday objects Making Shakers Exploring sounds outside using a beater on different surfaces	Festive Songs and performance Exploring pitch- high and low Matching sound and instruments game	Topic songs Exploring pitch and speed Using claves Copy me- simple beat	Topic songs Responding to music - makes me feel sad/happy/angry Draw the music Copy me- simple beat	Topic songs Adding new words to old songs Adding actions to songs	Topic songs Exploring pitch and speed Choosing appropriate instruments for different parts of a song

Maths	**Maths linked to theme: All About Me & My Routines:** Focuses on basic rote counting (1–5 and beyond) via number rhymes, establishing 1-to-1 correspondence, and basic size comparison (big/small).	**Maths linked to theme: Celebrations & Changing Seasons:** Extends counting up to 5 objects reliably and introduces weight, capacity, and basic positional language like *inside* and *next to*.	**Maths linked to theme: Our Community & Transport:** Introduces perceptual subitizing (instantly recognizing 1 or 2 items without counting), identifying circles and triangles, and copying simple ABAB repeating patterns.	**Maths linked to theme: Growth & Animals:** Consolidates the **cardinal principle** (knowing the last number counted represents the whole group up to 5) and introduces squares, rectangles, and language like *fewer* or *less*.	**Maths linked to theme: Exploration:** Bridges the gap between abstract numerals and concrete quantities up to 5, using finger representation and real-world snack/toy sharing problems.	Prepares children for the transition to Reception by practicing counting out a smaller set from a larger pile, combining 2D shapes, and mastery of subitizing. The children use their understanding of subitising to recognise quantities and combine two groups to work out how many there are altogether.

LITTLE WANDLE PHONICS	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Rhyme time	**s a t p i n**	**m d g o c k e**	**u r h b f l j**	**v w y z qu ch**	**ck x sh th ng nk**
	Environmental sounds Listening walks Sound bingo Mirror sound play Noisy neighbour	**Initial sounds** - snake - astronaut - tiger - penguin - iguana - net	**Initial sounds** -mouse -duck -goat -octopus -cat -kite -elephant	**Initial sounds** **-umbrella** **-rainbow** **-helicopter** **-bear** **-flamingo** **-lollipop** **-jellyfish**	**Initial Sounds** -volcano -wave -yo-yo -zebra -queen -cherries	**Final/Inital sounds** -so**ck** -bo**x** **-sh**ells -ri**ng** -pi**nk** **-th**umb -tee**th**
Phonemic Awareness		Hear **same** initial sounds	**Identify different** initial sounds of words	**Identify different** initial sounds of words **Voiced sounds**	**Identify different** initial sounds of words	**Identify final sounds**
Tuning into Sounds Games		- Play with sounds -Bertha the bus - Name play For each new sound play What's in the box	-What's in the box w/different initial sounds For each new sound play What's in the box	-play with sounds -Bertha the bus -Name play	-play with sounds -Bertha the bus -Name play	-play with sounds -Bertha the bus -Name play
Oral blending Games		Blend from the box	-Can you touch your -What's that noise - Can you do the actions -Blend from the box encourage children to join in and blend together	-Can you touch your -What's that noise - Can you do the actions -Blend from the box pause before you blend	-Can you touch your -What's that noise - Can you do the actions -Blend from the box Do not blend the words for the children	-Can you touch your -What's that noise - Can you do the actions -Blend from the box Do not blend the words for children

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Trips		Theatre trip to the Arts Depot	Fire station	Long Lane Pastures	Belmont Farm	Victoria Park Sports Day at Tudor

		Little City visit Visitors- people in the community				
Forest School	Keeping ourselves safe Autumn walk Noticing our environment What lives here?	Looking after nature - bird feeders Autumnal craft Introduction to shelter building Muddy play and mud kitchen	Teamwork and games Shelter building Cooking using a stove - soup Fire safety and toasting on a fire	Planting seeds Noticing growth Collecting, sorting and classifying Woodland creatures	Animals and their babies Frog life-cycle Life cycle of a butterfly	Minibeast hunt - spiders and insects Terrific Trees Looking after our buzzing bees and beautiful butterflies