



Appendix 1: Thematic Curriculum

Learning is organised through half-termly themes which provide meaningful contexts for learning.

The Hedgehog Curriculum is not topic-led or subject-led. It is development-led, with themes used as a flexible base to deliver learning that is adaptable, meaningful, engaging and appropriate for every pupil.

This ensures a coherent, inclusive, ambitious and highly personalised curriculum that meets the individual developmental needs of every learner.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
All About Me	My community	Journeys and Travel	Once Upon a time	The World	Summer Exploration
Superheroes and Super Me	People and Places	Around the world	Adventures	Wild and exotic	Under the sea
Marvelous Me	Celebrations	The Environment	Dream big	Ready Steady Grow	Creatures Great and Small

Cycle A	Theme	Key Focus	Book links	Regulation	Connection	Communication	Independence	Key vocabulary
Autumn 1	All About Me	Identity, Self awareness	Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do You See	Sensory mirrors, calming routines, body awareness Zones of regulation	Adult-led interaction, shared attention games	Name recognition, requesting items, visuals/signs	Choosing activities, recognising belongings	me, my, body, face, eyes, nose, ears, hands, feet, happy, sad
Autumn 2	My Community	Family, School, The surrounding area	My Community	Familiar sensory exploration, role play	Role play with adults, shared experiences	Naming people/places, symbols	Following routines, dressing up	family, home, school, teacher, friend, shop, park, help, people
Spring 1	Journeys and Travel	Different transport, movement	We catch the bus The Stickman	Movement play (rocking, jumping)	Turn-taking with vehicles	Requesting movement, labelling transport	Following instructions, transitions	bus, car, train, travel, move, fast, slow, stop, go, road
Spring 2	Once Upon a Time	Stories past and present	Jack and the Beanstalk	Sensory storytelling	Shared attention, adult interaction	Story sequencing, symbols	Choosing books, story routines	story, book, character, castle, giant, magic, princess, once, next
Summer 1	The World	Habitats, weather, countries	Love Our World Noisy Farm	Sensory weather/nature play	Shared outdoor exploration	Identifying, Labelling environments, preferences	Exploring with confidence	world, country, weather, hot, cold, rain, sun, animal, habitat

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Summer 2	Summer Exploration	Adventure, Environments	We're going on a Bear Hunt Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book	Water, sand sensory play	Shared play trails	Requesting, commenting	Making choices, initiating play	explore, adventure, map, water, sand, outside, discover, search
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Term	Example Learning Opportunities
Aut 1	Sensory play, mirrors, Name recognition
Aut 2	Dressing up, role play, Photo recognition/discussions
Spr 1	Float/sink, Vehicle sorting, Different movement
Spr 2	Sensory stories, Story sequencing, Creating a story
Sum 1	Exploring habitats, Animal matching, weather charts
Sum2	Sensory trails, small world play, Holiday places

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Cycle B	Theme	Key Focus	Book Links	Regulation	Connection	Communication	Independence	Key vocabulary
Autumn 1	Superheroes and Super Me	Who am I, What makes me special	Super potato A Superhero Like You	Movement, sensory costumes	Role play, shared play	Describing self, preferences	Dressing up, choice making	superhero, strong, help, brave, rescue, power, cape, special
Autumn 2	People and Places	Communities, homes, culture	The jolly Postman	Familiar sensory experiences	Group interaction	Naming people/places	Participating in routines	people, place, home, community, village, town, family, culture
Spring 1	Around the world	Space, our world, the environment	Whatever Next Meet the planets	Sensory environments	Shared discovery	Making choices, identifying differences	Exploring with support	world, planet, space, Earth, moon, country, travel, environment
Spring 2	Adventures	Exploration, problem solving	The Snail and the Whale	Sensory trails, obstacle courses	Cooperative play	Requesting help, problem-solving	Completing challenges	adventure, explore, climb, search, find, journey, challenge, discover
Summer 1	Wild and Exotic	Different animals and habitats	Dear Zoo Owl babies	Animal sensory play	Shared exploration	Naming animals, choices	Sorting and matching	wild, exotic, animal, jungle, safari, habitat, fur, feathers

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Summer 2	Under the Sea	Sea life, Water habitats	Tiddler	Water play, calming sensory input	Shared exploration	Labelling sea life	Structured play participation	sea, ocean, fish, shark, whale, shell, water
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Term	Example Learning Opportunities
Autumn 1	Photo recognition, Create a superhero, talent show
Autumn 2	Recognising familiar people, Dressing up, food tasting
Spring 1	Sensory landscapes, Recycling sorting, Matching environments
Spring 2	Sensory trail, Obstacle course, Treasure Hunt
Summer 1	Sensory textures, Animal matching, identifying where they live
Summer 2	Water play, create a Sea creature, Identify Sea creatures

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Cycle C	Theme	Key Focus	Book links	Regularisation	Connection	Communication	Independence	Key vocabulary
Autumn 1	Marvellous Me	Self-identity, diversity	Super Duper You Elmer	Sensory self-awareness	Circle time, shared attention	Expressing identity	Self-care routines	me, unique, different, same, feelings, proud, special, friend
Autumn 2	Celebrations	Festivals, routines, traditions	Let's Celebrate	Sensory music, lights, food	Shared celebrations	Songs, commenting	Following routines	celebrate, party, festival, music, dance, family, tradition, special
Spring 1	The Environment	Eco awareness, sustainability	If I were the world	Outdoor sensory exploration	Shared eco activities	Labelling materials	Recycling and sorting	recycle, reuse, environment, nature, planet, litter, clean, protect
Spring 2	Dream Big	Aspirations, independence	You Can You Choose	Sensory imaginative play	Adult-supported role play	Expressing wants	Initiating play/goals	dream, goal, future, choose, achieve, job, learn, try
Summer 1	Ready Steady Grow	Life cycles, change over time	The Hungry Caterpillar	Gardening sensory input	Shared planting	Choosing, Describing changes	Caring for plants	grow, plant, seed, root, stem, leaf, flower, change
Summer 2	Creatures Great and Small	Animals, Habitats, comparison	Creatures Great and Small (rhyming) The Tiger that came to tea	Animal sensory exploration	Shared investigation	Comparing, choices	Sorting and categorising	creature, animal, habitat, big, small, compare, sort, identify

Term	Example Learning Opportunities
Autumn1	Circle time, Sensory bottles, self-portraits,
Autumn 2	Food tasting, music, dressing up
Spring 1	Junk modelling, Recycling activities, eco project
Spring 2	Blowing bubbles sensory tray, Goal setting, role play
Summer 1	Exploring veg patch, planting seeds, growth timeline
Summer 2	Sensory animal habitats, Sorting Animals, habitat building



Children will be exposed to and encouraged to use a range of core communication, literacy and mathematical vocabulary throughout the year. Theme-specific vocabulary will be explicitly modelled through adult interactions, sensory experiences, stories, play opportunities and visual supports.

High Frequency Words (HFW)

Half Term	Focus HFW
Autumn 1	I, me, my, the, a, is
Autumn 2	mum, dad, we, you, and, to
Spring 1	go, stop, on, in, it, can
Spring 2	look, see, like, at, here, there

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Half Term	Focus HFW
Summer 1	big, little, this, that, have, help
Summer 2	want, more, all, come, play, finished

Maths Vocabulary

Half Term	Maths Vocabulary
Autumn 1	big, small, same, different, more, less
Autumn 2	one, two, three, count, number, match
Spring 1	fast, slow, near, far, next, first
Spring 2	full, empty, whole, part, heavy, light
Summer 1	hot, cold, day, night, long, short



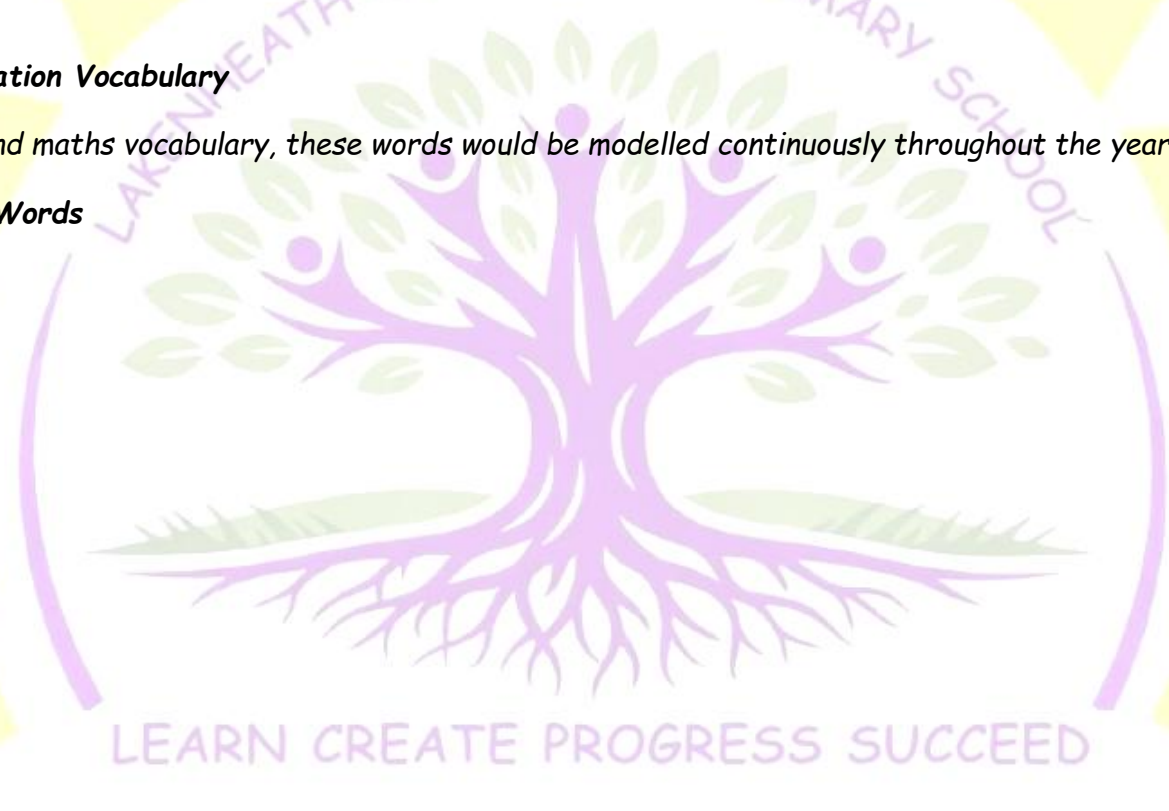
Half Term	Maths Vocabulary
Summer 2	sort, group, compare, bigger, smaller, equal

Continuous Communication Vocabulary

Alongside the HFW and maths vocabulary, these words would be modelled continuously throughout the year:

Core Communication Words

- *More*
- *Help*
- *Stop*
- *Go*
- *Finished*
- *My turn*
- *Your turn*
- *Look*
- *Want*



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- *Like*
- *Yes*
- *No*
- *Again*

