

# Explorers 2

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Spring Term 2026



**Our Values...**  
**Welcoming**   **Teamwork**  
**Friendship**   **Trust**  
**Independence**   **Fun!**

#### Curriculum Enrichment

Writing Curriculum Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Wellbeing Days:  
10<sup>th</sup> February (Children's Mental Health)  
20<sup>th</sup> March (Red Nose Day)

#### Festivals of the Month

January – Vasant Panchami  
February – Chinese New Year  
March – Eid Al Fitr

#### EHCP Targets

All of the pupils will be working towards the targets in their EHC Plans in all of their lessons.

The activities we do in class will focus on different aspects of these targets, which include:

**Communication and Interaction**

**Cognition and Learning**

**Sensory and Physical Skills**

**Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs**

**Topic:** Amazing Animals

#### How is my child's progress being recorded?

Each pupil works towards their individual targets, which are assessed on a weekly basis and recorded using the Engagement Model, in the areas of Exploration, Realisation, Anticipation, Persistence and Initiation.

Their overall progress is measured using the EQUALS assessment framework, using video evidence to capture pupils' achievements towards all of their targets.

#### My Communication

Pupils will continue to be supported to develop their interaction, expression, and choice-making skills.

On Mondays, pupils will engage in sensory storytelling, exploring 'Monkey Puzzle'. They will explore the story through interactive props and actions that represent the animals in the book.

From Tuesdays to Thursdays, pupils will practise communication and phonics skills. They will participate in communication using their preferred communication method to request a favourite activity, such as a puzzle, exploring sensory foam or song. Phonics sessions will help develop early language skills, incorporating fun activities like "What's in the Box?" to engage students and build anticipation for learning new sounds and words.

On Fridays, the communication focus will include fine motor skills in connection with communication tasks. Pupils will engage in fine motor carousel activities such as threading beads, sensory rice brushing, and using corn flour with pencils to help strengthen their hand-eye coordination.

#### Music

Pupils will develop their awareness and understanding of pitch and tempo, through movement, vocal sounds and instruments. They will experience contrasts of high and low pitches, with a focus on different animal sounds and the translation of animal movements into sounds.

## My Sensory Play

Sensory play this term and will be largely pupil-led, allowing students the time and freedom to explore materials in ways that interest them most. Pupils will take part in a range of sensory activities such as messy food play, exploring different textures including pasta, rice, jelly, oats, and dough. Animal-themed sensory experiences linked to different habitats will support curiosity and engagement, helping pupils to explore through touch, sight, smell, and movement at their own pace. There will also be opportunities for pupils to work alongside peers, supporting the development of early social skills such as shared attention, turn-taking, and parallel play.

In Art, pupils will be supported to explore through experimentation and sensory play a variety of materials and techniques to develop outcomes based on the theme of 'Amazing Animals'. Pupils will be introduced to the work of Franz Marc, Henri Rousseau and Dean Russo and use a variety of techniques to explore the artists' styles to include printing, painting, collage and mixed materials. Pupils will also make a clay flower for Chads Grove's 50th Birthday celebrations.

## My Independence

Independence is a central focus this term, with students encouraged to develop skills for moving around school and completing daily tasks on their own. Across the school day, pupils will be encouraged to organise their belongings, self-dress and actively seek adult support when required.

Pupils will practice moving independently in school, outdoor areas and in the community. They will also learn practical life skills, like preparing a simple fruit salad or piece of toast using a spreading knife, as well as dressing appropriately for outdoor activities.

## My Physical Wellbeing

Pupils will enjoy movement sessions with songs and dance to build coordination, confidence, and physical skills. They will also participate in individual movement plans tailored to their needs, promoting both enjoyment and development in physical wellbeing.

Pupils will take part in MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme); some pupils will move onto developing table games skills such as Polybat. After half term, the focus will be target games including Boccia and New Age Curling.

Pupils will get the opportunity to take part in an Outdoor Adventurous Activity this term.

## My Outdoor Learning

Outdoor school will provide pupils with the opportunity to explore nature, engage with animals, and develop practical skills. Pupils will participate in bug hunting, bird watching, and making bird feeders, as well as mixing and digging in the mud kitchen.

These activities will foster sensory exploration and connection with the natural world, enhancing both learning and enjoyment in the outdoors.

## How can parent carers support their child's learning?

We kindly ask that pupils come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, in clothing that allows them to practise dressing and undressing independently. We also encourage you to continue supporting your child's communication at home and to promote independence in their everyday activities.