

7LS

Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023



Our Values...

Welcoming Teamwork
Friendship Trust
Independence Fun!

'Humanities' is our whole school curriculum priority for the Autumn Term.

A Humanities Curriculum Day will take place this term for the whole school, with lots of exciting activities planned which will focus on History, Geography, RE and British Values.

Festivals of the Month

September: Sukkot
October: Dussehra
November: Diwali
December: Christmas

EHCP Targets

All of our 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

Theme: Developing pupils' means of expressing preferences

Topic: My Favourite Things

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 'Routes for Learning' assessment framework, using video evidence to capture pupils' achievements towards all of their targets.

Communication Skills

Sensory stories:

Pupils will be encouraged to join in a social story about their favourite places around school, through use of Objects of Reference and tactile, visual and auditory stimuli, which will be used to explore different places around school and the activities associated with these, including water spray for the swimming pool, fibre optic lights for the Multi-Sensory Room and a paintbrush for the Art Room. Pupils will be encouraged to join in the story by pressing a Big Mack switch to say 'yes' or 'no', when asked about different places around school and by pressing a Little Beamer wireless switch to advance slides on the PowerPoint presentation to move to the next part of the story.

Pupils will also work towards their individual targets, for example staff will pause during part of the storytelling experience and wait for a pupil to indicate whether they would like 'more' or staff will offer a sensory stimulus and encourage the pupil to explore this, noting their reactions to any effects that they cause.

Intensive Interaction sessions:

Pupils will be given opportunities to develop the Fundamentals of Communication, including use of eye contact, turn taking, sharing attention and using vocalisations.

TACPAC style communication sessions:

This term we will use TACPAC Set One and a TACPAC inspired activity linked to our topic, using pupils' favourite 'relaxation' items such as massage rollers, soft furry gloves, ribbons, lights and spiky balls.

Motor Skills

As well as following their individual movement plans, pupils will also be encouraged to explore movement to music.

Dance:

The Festival of the Month will allow opportunities to explore music from different religions and cultures including the Jewish festival of Sukkot, and the Hindu and Sikh festival of Diwali.

Pupils will be encouraged to join in with dance style activities using props such as large fans, poi scarves, ribbons, brightly decorated parasols, etc. Pupils will also take part in massage sessions – they will have the opportunity to explore a range of sensory massage activities which will also encourage them to stretch/reach for objects, to roll, and to experience different positions for massage, such as lying prone over a wedge.

Pupils will continue to have regular opportunities to access **Rebound Therapy** on the trampoline and to use the swimming pool for **Hydrotherapy** sessions. These will generally be on a Monday afternoon, but pupils may have the opportunity to use the pool on other days of the week so their swim kit may be kept in school until their Hydrotherapy session has taken place.

Thinking Skills

Messy Play/Messy Craft:

Pupils will be encouraged to use their sensory skills to explore tactile activities, for example creating an Autumn sensory bottle and exploring an Autumn sensory tray.

Some activities will take place outside in the Sensory Garden, for example joining in an Autumn Scavenger Hunt.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to join in some 'messy food play' linked to our Festivals of the Month, for example exploring Indian foods such as rice, poppadums and mango chutney and Jewish foods enjoyed at festival times, such as apples and honey.

In **Sensology** sessions, pupils will be offered the chance to explore items using all of their five senses: staff will respond to pupils' total communication so that we can build up a bank of sensory stimuli which are their favourites and repeat these in future sessions.

Computing: Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of cause and effect by accessing activities on the large screen in class, via the use of a variety of switches or the touch screen, which will make animations and sounds appear. They will also be able to use the Eyegaze computer to further refine their skills as well as using switches to control the environment around them, for example to switch on a light or a fan.

Music

Pupils will explore our wide range of musical instruments whilst becoming familiar again with the Music Room and the structure of their weekly music sessions. Using the focus of 'I like/I want', they will explore lots of instruments and a range of contrasting songs and musical styles. They will become increasingly familiar with changes in tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume), plus relevant nursery rhymes and the choice of instruments available; they will explore how to express a preference, and to share what they like, and don't like, with others.

Art

Pupils will experience a range of activities which will encourage them to explore their favourite things. They will start each lesson with a hand massage, to prepare them for using their fine motor skills. They will then be offered the chance to make choices about colours and materials to use to create their own individual pieces of art work linked to the theme of 'My Favourite Things'.

Pupils will also be creating some Art work based on the seasons, for example an making an Autumn collage and Christmas cards and calendars.