

**7LS**

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Spring Term 2024



### Our Values...

**Welcoming**   **Teamwork**  
**Friendship**   **Trust**  
**Independence**   **Fun!**

### PSHCE

(Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education)  
is our whole school curriculum priority for the Spring Term.

We have a 'Keeping Safe' Day planned in January and a whole school 'Wellbeing' Day in March.

### Festivals of the Month

**January:** Lohri  
**February:** Chinese New Year  
**March:** Ramadan

### 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' abilities in sharing attention and taking turns during interaction with others

**Topic:** Aladdin's Magical Journey

### 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 story:** During our sensory version of the story 'Aladdin', pupils will be encouraged to join in the storytelling activities, which will include swirling silk scarves and ribbons as they go on the 'magic carpet ride', developing their anticipation skills as they are fanned using large colourful fans whilst Princess Jasmine is dancing, exploring sensory trays filled with bright, shiny items as they search for the magic lamp in the treasure cave and using highly decorated parasols to shade 'Prince Ali' as he marches into the city!

During the sensory story, pupils will be encouraged to work towards their personalized Communication Skills targets, which include communicating 'more/no more', joining in social interaction with others and expressing preferences/communicating choices.

### **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 Two and a TACPAC inspired activity linked to our topic: we will listen to relaxing, orchestra versions of songs from Aladdin and other Disney songs whilst experiencing tactile activities including flowers, snow, water spray, vibrating lights and swirling fabrics.

### Motor Skills

As well as following their individual movement plans, pupils will also be encouraged to explore movement to music. The 'Festival of the Month' will allow opportunities to explore music from different religions and cultures including music associated with China and Tibet when exploring Chinese New Year as well as music and songs from both the Sikh, Hindu and Islamic faiths. We will also explore Christian music from around the world linked to our RE unit of Pentecost.

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, to experience different positions for massage e.g. 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 have the opportunity to explore a range of sensory activities which are aimed primarily at developing their tactile awareness. These will include 'messy food play' activities, often linked to our 'Festival of the Month', for example exploring wet, sticky noodles and red glittery rice as part of our Chinese New Year activities. Pupils will also be encouraged to explore sensory trays linked to the theme of Aladdin, for example feeling dry sand, wet sand, exploring sequins and glitter and exploring chiffon scarves and lights on a large drum skin. In our **Sensology** sessions, again linked to our theme of Aladdin, pupils will use their five senses to explore lights, listen to maracas, smell the scent of Oriental perfumes, feel sand running through their fingers and taste hummus.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in Outdoor Learning, accessing our Sensory Garden and Forest School area to take part in activities such as a Winter Sensory Hunt and experiencing a bonfire.

**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 experience musical exchanges with their peers and with familiar adults through exploration of contrasting 'name rhythms' that will be unique to each individual. Through musical material selected from Disney's Aladdin, they will experiment with changes to these patterns, including different tempos (speed) and dynamics (volume), and will be encouraged to respond to specific rhythms being used to symbolise other things (for example, characters in the story). They will have the opportunity to use a wide selection of untuned percussion instruments, and will perform both individually and as part of a group.

### Art

Pupils will be encouraged to use their available senses to explore different arts and crafts. They will have the opportunity to explore different materials and process art techniques continuing with the theme Aladdin's magical journey. After half term pupils will also be creating sensory arts and crafts relating to Spring and Easter. The pupils will be able to develop their physical and concentration skills throughout a number of activities, for example developing their fine motor skills by exploring tactile materials and developing their choice making skills. This will all come together to create their own unique pieces of art.