

Discoverers 2 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2025



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

Curriculum Enrichment

Multi-Cultural Day – 17th October
Enterprise Day – 19th November

Festivals of the Month

September- Rosh Hashanah
October- Simchat Torah
November- Diwali
December –Christmas

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

Theme: Developing pupils' means of expressing preferences

Topic:
A Sense of Autumn

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

Pupils will explore the season of Autumn through immersive sensory storytelling based on 'Autumn' by Ailie Busby. Linked to the Barrs Court Curriculum, activities will support early communication and literacy skills, encouraging pupils to respond to sensory stimuli such as Autumn fruits, rustling leaves and seasonal colours. Stories will be presented using interactive slides and enriched with tactile, visual and auditory elements to promote engagement and anticipation.

In addition, pupils will take part in Intensive Interaction sessions to build core communication skills including eye contact, turn-taking and vocalisation. Autumn-themed activities such as scarf mirroring and wind sound play will support meaningful exchanges with familiar adults.

TACPAC-style sessions will further enhance sensory communication, focusing on expressing preferences and emotions through gestures, facial expressions, and vocalisations. Pupils will enjoy calming seasonal experiences like story massage, rainmaker sounds, and an Autumn Sensory Soup activity.

All sessions are tailored to individual communication targets, fostering expressive, interactive and sensory-rich learning.

Motor Skills

Pupils will work on their individual Movement Plans. Alongside these personalised plans, pupils will be encouraged to explore movement through music and sensory experiences. As part of our 'Festival of the Month' theme, pupils will engage with music and dance inspired by a range of cultural and religious celebrations. Pupils will be invited to join in with dance-style activities using props such as poi scarves, large fans, ribbons and decorated parasols, to encourage expressive movement and physical engagement.

Additionally, pupils will take part in sensory massage sessions, which support physical development through gentle stretching, reaching, rolling, and exploring different body positions. These sessions offer opportunities for pupils to experience massage while lying prone over wedges or reaching for sensory objects, promoting relaxation and body awareness.

Hydrotherapy/swim sessions – Swim sessions are scheduled for Thursday afternoons however please ensure your child's swim kit is in school all week, as the time of their swim session may vary depending on the availability of the swimming pool.

Thinking Skills

This term, pupils will develop early thinking skills through music, technology, sensory exploration and creative play.

Music & Song Time: Pupils will use switches to activate Autumn-themed songs like 'Autumn Leaves' and 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow', explore percussion instruments and respond to rhythm and sound. These sessions support cause and effect understanding, choice-making and auditory engagement.

Technology Sessions: Using programs such as Big Bang, Target and Touch, and Look to Listen, pupils will build cognitive and visual skills through interactive play. Input methods will include switches, touch screens and Eye Gaze, tailored to individual needs.

Look and Listen Skills: Pupils will engage with sensory PowerPoints featuring seasonal sights and sounds—from rustling leaves to festive fireworks—supporting visual tracking, scanning and auditory awareness.

Messy Play and Creative Exploration: Pupils will explore a variety of tactile materials through themed activities such as pumpkin painting, leaf printing, firework art and sensory trays. These experiences promote fine motor skills, sensory tolerance and creativity.

Music

Pupils will explore Autumn through songs, sound-making, listening and creative activities. Using the season as inspiration, they will discover how different instrumental sounds can represent animals, nature, changes in the weather, the excitement of bonfire night and the coziness of relaxing in front of a warm fire. They will experience contrasting combinations of sounds, playing individually and as part of a group, with activities developing each pupil's ability to express preferences.

PSHCE

Pupils will build key social and emotional skills through personalised and group activities that promote wellbeing, relationships and self-expression. The key focus will be around expressing feelings, supporting others, enjoyment and engagement. These topics will be embedded into the school day.

Art

With an Autumn focus, pupils will explore sensory materials and gain a tolerance for a variety of sensory stimuli. They will be encouraged to investigate properties of natural resources, e.g. hard/soft, rough/smooth. Activities will encourage the development of fine motor skills.