

Explorers 1 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2026



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

Curriculum Enrichment

Writing Curriculum Day – 5th March
Wellbeing Days:
10th February (Children's Mental Health)
20th 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:
Out and About

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 build on the communication skills they have already been developing, with a growing emphasis on showing preferences, making choices and taking a more active role in interactions. Learning will continue to be play-based and highly engaging, using Intensive Interaction, familiar stories and songs to help pupils become more confident communicators and to strengthen anticipation and understanding through well-established routines.

Alongside this, pupils will work on strengthening the physical and visual skills that support communication, such as improved head control, sustained eye contact and the ability to track and focus for longer periods. These developing skills will help pupils interact more effectively with both adults and their peers.

Pupils will also be supported to extend their use of different communication systems, revisiting familiar methods such as signs, symbols, pictures, ALD sheets, communication books, software and switches, while being encouraged to use these more independently and consistently where appropriate.

Regular Phonics sessions will continue, with sensory-based 'What's in the Box?' activities used to deepen pupils' awareness of sounds in a playful and motivating way. Throughout the term, there will be a continued focus on core words including 'I want,' 'I like,' and 'more', supporting pupils to use these more confidently and purposefully in everyday situations.

My Physical Well-being

Pupils will continue to take part in personalised movement activities designed to develop strength, control, and coordination. Across the week, activities will provide regular opportunities to practise both fine and gross motor skills, encouraging pupils to reach for and grasp objects, as well as manipulate materials through purposeful play.

Regular sessions in the Multi-Sensory Room will support the development of visual tracking and switch access. Pupils will also have frequent opportunities to change body positions and engage in motivating, interactive activities that encourage movement.

Pupils will take part in MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme) this term focusing on developing the skills of pushing, pulling, aiming and kicking, this will lead onto developing a rally and scoring points.

Art

Pupils will explore the world around them and bring what they see, hear, and feel into the sensory art sessions. They will experiment with colour, texture, sound, and materials, supporting communication, choice making, engagement, and enjoyment of learning.

My Sensory Play

Pupils will be engaging in a wide range of experiences that stimulate all the senses – including touch, sound, light, smell, and taste. These activities are designed to encourage curiosity, anticipation, and tolerance as pupils explore and respond to the world around them.

This term pupils will explore different textures and materials, using a variety of tools and objects though messy food play to build confidence and develop key physical and thinking skills. Pupils will have opportunity to explore dry foods such as oats and dried pasta and wet food such as jelly and cooked pasta.

They will also continue to explore cause and effect through hands-on play with materials, toys, and equipment, helping pupils understand how their actions can make things happen.

Role play activities linked to our topic area of 'Out and About' will include shops and a library, providing opportunities to practise life skills and scenarios.

Pupils will be supported to play independently, following their own interests, as well as alongside their peers, encouraging social interaction and shared exploration.

My Independence

Pupils will continue to develop their independence skills. Pupils will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands, help to tidy up, and communicate their wants and needs. The consistent routines and positive encouragement will help the pupils develop confidence to become more independent in ways that are suitable for them.

My Outdoor Learning

Pupils will explore the outdoors as the seasons change, noticing differences in weather, colour, and nature. Through hands-on activities and play, they will build confidence, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Daily opportunities in the playground will provide pupils to engage in outdoor games with their peers. Throughout the term pupils will have opportunities to go out and about in the local area.

How can parent carers support their child's learning?

Please can pupils have spare clothes and also suitable outdoor clothing and footwear where appropriate. Continue supporting your child's communication at home and to promote independence in their everyday activities.