

# Discoverers 1

## 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

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

#### 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:** Encouraging pupils to explore interactions with familiar people

**Topic:** The Secret Garden

#### 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

**Morning Welcome Routine-** This term the singing bowl and chimes will be introduced to the group and used to gain pupils' attention, encouraging them to locate the sounds, respond to their name and anticipate their turn. Pupils will be responsible for 'Winston the dog', our class mascot, during their turn to say 'hello' and an intensive interaction approach will be used to encourage and extend pupils' interactions and participation.

**Sensory Story-** 'Snow' and 'The Secret Garden' will be delivered in the Multi-Sensory Room this term, where pupils will be immersed in an interactive environment to increase their engagement, persistence and interactions with their communication partners while being supported to explore a range of relevant sensory stimuli.

**Movement-Based Story-** 'Lost and Found' will be delivered in the hall this term where pupils will experience taking part in drama and role play based activities using a big space. Music and movement will be used to bring the story to life and will be repeated each week so that pupils can build on their interactions and develop more confidence to express themselves.

**TACPAC and TACPAC inspired activities-** This term TACPAC set 6 will be used to develop pupils' communication strategies so that they can engage in social interactions with more intention. A TACPAC style session linked to the topic of 'The Secret Garden' will create opportunities for pupils to express their preferences through exploration of tactile materials and relevant music.

## Motor Skills

Pupils will have daily opportunities to follow their individual movement programs in class which have been set by their physiotherapist, including using standing frames, walking frames, therapy benches and being supported to do a range of passive/active stretches. Staff will encourage pupils to stretch, reach and move their bodies as far as possible throughout the day.

**Hydrotherapy-** Pupils will play group games and join in with action songs while following the landmarks around the pool such as the bubble machine, sensory tunnel and water falls. They will have the opportunity to experience 'Liquid Listening', which will encourage them to listen to the underwater sounds while staff observe and respond to their total communication strategies, allowing them to take the lead and develop more independence.

**Rebound Therapy-** Pupils will work on their personal targets, taking turns to access the trampoline, sometimes working in pairs to encourage interactions with their peers.

**Soft Play-** Pupils will focus on turn taking and playing fun games with their peers such as passing the big therapy ball and joining in with 'ready steady go' games using specialist equipment such as the vibrating mat, spinner and rocker to increase their engagement and encourage them to move their bodies in as many ways as possible.

## Thinking Skills

**Sensory Play-** Pupils will be encouraged to use their available senses and total communication strategies to explore sensory and messy food play activities. This term, they will focus on the story 'We're Going on a Polar Bear Hunt' an adapted version of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and in the second half term, the theme of 'The Secret Garden'. Activities will include a range of multi-sensory opportunities which will provide safe and fun experiences where pupils can develop a deeper understanding of their sensory systems and the wider world around them.

**Cause and Effect-** Pupils will continue to develop their understanding of cause and effect using a range of assistive software and equipment. Pupils will be encouraged to control their environment with more independence and staff will be responsive to their actions, drawing attention to the impact in their immediate surroundings.

**Inclusive Technology-** Pupils will have regular opportunities to use the EyeGaze computer to develop their visual skills; such as locating, tracking and fixating on visual information. They will also have access to the Sound Beam equipment to explore sounds and develop their auditory processing skills. In the Multi-Sensory Room, pupils will experience being immersed in an interactive Winter Garden/Spring Garden environment.

## Music

Pupils will be exploring dynamics (loud and quiet sounds), beginning with the theme of 'The Secret Garden' in Winter and using soft/quiet sounds to reflect stillness and cold weather. As the term progresses into Spring, pupils will explore brighter, louder and more energetic music as the garden comes to life.

## PSHE

Staff will seize opportunities throughout the day to engage pupils in intensive interaction conversations, developing positive relationships and encouraging them to engage in meaningful interactions. Friday sessions in Soft Play will focus on well-being and relaxation which will enable pupils to develop body awareness while enjoying social interaction with their partner.

## Art

Pupils will explore the change from Winter to Spring through sensory creative activities. They will experience different colours (cool colours for Winter and moving into more vibrant colours in Spring), textures, sounds and materials to support and develop their engagement, communication, decision making and enjoyment.