

Horizons Connect Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2026



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

Curriculum Enrichment

Curriculum Day: Sensory Impairment
Awareness – 13th October

Enterprise Day – 18th November

Festivals of the Month

September – Yom Kippur
October – Navaratri
November – Guru Nanak Gurpurab
December – Christmas

EHCP Targets

All of the students 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:

Supporting students in recognising their own abilities to gain attention and make requests

Topic:

Through the Looking Glass

How is my child's progress being recorded?

Each student 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 their achievements towards all of their targets.

Communication Skills

Sensory Story

This term, our Sensory Story topic is 'Through the Looking Glass', loosely inspired by the magical world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Students will be encouraged to explore and experience the story through their senses, using a range of engaging props and sensory experiences including smelling different teas, exploring playing cards, scarves and swirling materials. Symbols and communication resources will be incorporated throughout the story to support students in expressing preferences, making choices and developing their communication skills. Video clips, music and other sensory stimuli will further bring the story to life, creating an immersive and engaging experience where every student can participate and explore the wonder of the story in their own way.

TACPAC

Students will take part in a TACPAC-style communication lesson, where different movements and sensory stimuli are paired with music to create an engaging and interactive experience. Students will be encouraged to express preferences, request for activities to continue or stop, and develop anticipation as they become familiar with the routines.

Health and Wellbeing

Swim

Students will continue to work towards their personalised targets and relevant EHCP targets. They will attend on a rota basis during their class movement session.

Movement Lessons

Students will follow their individual movement plans, developed in collaboration with physiotherapists, to support their physical development, mobility and wellbeing. Sessions will make use of specialist equipment including standing frames, sports wheelchairs, benches and trikes, enabling students to practice movement and develop their physical skills in a safe and supportive environment. Some students may access Rebound Therapy sessions on the trampoline.

Dance

Dance sessions will explore the colours, sounds and movements of Autumn, using seasonal songs and creative movement. Adding a little Wonderland magic, students will be encouraged to express themselves, explore different movements and enjoy dancing together.

Thinking Skills/Independent Living

Computing

Students will have regular opportunities to access the computer suite, where they will explore and develop their skills using a range of assistive technology. This will include switches, touch screens, interactive activities and Eye Gaze technology, with sessions carefully adapted to meet each student's individual targets and needs. Students will be encouraged to make choices, develop cause-and-effect understanding, communicate preferences and interact with technology with increasing independence. Activities will be engaging and purposeful, providing opportunities for students to develop their confidence and understanding of how technology can support communication, learning and participation in everyday life.

Lessons in the Multi Sensory Room will allow students the opportunities to control their surroundings with the lights and different equipment

PSHCE

Students will explore 'What I Can Do', developing independence, confidence and a sense of achievement. Through practical and interactive activities, students will have opportunities to make choices, communicate their preferences and recognise their own strengths and abilities, while developing skills that support greater independence in everyday life.

Music

Students will be exploring texture (changes in the groupings of sounds), with a focus on proactive skills when creating music individually and with others. Through musical material selected around the class' 'Through the Looking Glass' theme, sessions will explore repetition in music as well as the creation of magical soundscapes using a wide variety of instruments and vocal sounds.

Community Inclusion

Students will take part in a link project with Chadsgrove Specialist College, offering them a glimpse into what college life could look like and supporting their preparation for adulthood. They will also visit Merry Hill for Christmas shopping, developing independence, communication and community skills in a real-life setting.

Art

We're going down the rabbit hole in an Alice in Wonderland art adventure! Students will explore colour, texture, smell and movement through sensory process art, using brushes, sponges, stamps, fly swats and scissor blocks to create 'Through the Key Hole' and 'Eat Me/ Drink Me' potions. They will also enjoy Autumn leaf printing, scented paints and spooky Halloween art. They will then transition from Autumn to Winter, creating festive and sensory Christmas crafts.