

Explorers 1 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

Topic:

Explore our Senses

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 be focusing on developing early communication skills. They will be supported to make meaningful choices and express their preferences in a variety of ways. Activities will include play-based learning, Intensive Interaction sessions, and engaging stories and songs to help build confidence, anticipation and communication through repetition and routine.

Pupils will also focus on developing skills such as head control, eye contact, visual tracking, and finding and focusing to develop their ability to communicate effectively with peers and adults.

Pupils will explore different communication methods, including signs, symbols, pictures, ALD sheets, communication books, software, and switches. These tools will support each pupil in finding the most effective way to communicate.

They will also have regular Phonics sessions, using sensory-based 'What's in the Box?' activities to explore sounds in a fun and interactive way. Throughout the term, there will be a focus on key core words such as 'I want,' 'I like,' and 'more', encouraging pupils to use these in context.

My Physical Well-being

There will be a strong focus on developing each pupil's physical well-being and meeting their individual physical needs. Pupils will be supported to develop their body awareness and explore different types of movement, helping to build strength, control, and coordination.

Self-care routines, such as hand washing, will be encouraged throughout the day to promote independence and healthy habits.

Regular hand function sessions will support the development of fine and gross motor skills. These sessions will focus on purposeful movements such as stretching and bending the arms, grasping and releasing objects, and strengthening the hands, arms, and upper body to support participation in fine motor activities.

Time in the Multi-Sensory Room will be used to work on changing body positions, developing gross motor skills, and practising switch access. These sessions will also support visual tracking and early communication through interactive and engaging activities.

PE takes place on a Friday, the pupils will explore how their bodies move using different pieces of equipment.

My Sensory Play

Pupils will be engaging in a wide range of sensory 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.

There will be lots of opportunities for sand and water play, where pupils can explore different textures, temperatures, and materials, using a variety of tools and objects to build confidence and develop key physical and thinking skills.

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

Role play will be another focus this term, giving pupils the chance to practise real-life scenarios and develop life skills. Linked to the topic about senses and body awareness, they will be engaging in activities such as pretend play in the kitchen, caring for dolls and teddies, making picnics, and visiting the role play doctors.

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 practise key life skills such as helping during tidy-up time, washing hands, and finding their own pegs. Snack and lunchtime routines will offer further opportunities for pupils to express their needs and wants, building confidence and communication through real-life contexts. Through consistent routines and positive encouragement, we aim to help each pupil become more independent in ways that are meaningful and appropriate to them.

My Outdoor Learning

Pupils will be exploring the changing seasons through regular outdoor experiences. They will take part in sensory walks and enjoy weekly Forest School sessions, encouraging curiosity and engagement with the natural world. There will also be plenty of opportunities to develop physical skills during outdoor playtimes and lunchtimes, using the playground and equipment to support movement and coordination.

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.