

7LS

Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024



Our Values...

Welcoming Teamwork
Friendship Trust
Independence Fun!

'Maths' is our whole school curriculum priority for the Autumn Term; our Maths Curriculum Day is on 6th November.

Our Wellbeing Day
will take place on 10th October,
which is also
World Mental Health Day

Festivals of the Month

September: Yom Kippur
October: Navaratri
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: Off We Go!

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

Sensory Storytelling:

Pupils will be offered the opportunity to join in sensory storytelling, with a story about travelling around the world and visiting different countries, through the use of tactile, visual and auditory stimuli, which will be associated with the countries visited in the story, e.g. chiffon fabric and music to represent Pakistan, drums and music to represent the Caribbean, fans to represent China, a flower garland to represent Poland (Polish national dress) and a 'stars and stripes' sensory tray to represent the USA.

Intensive Interaction:

Pupils will be given opportunities to develop the Fundamentals of Communication, including use of eye contact, turn taking, sharing attention and using vocalisations.

TACPAC:

This term pupils will use a TACPAC inspired activity linked to the topic of 'Off We Go!'. This will include using relaxing music and images shown on the interactive whiteboard, linked to different countries around the world. Pupils will be offered different tactile stimuli such as massage rollers, furry fabrics, massage brushes etc. and they will be encouraged to use their total communication strategies to show staff their preferences.

Story Massage:

Pupils will be offered the opportunity to experience elements of 'Story Massage', which again will be based on their topic, using music and songs from around the world along with a range of massage strokes.

Motor Skills

As well as following their individual movement plans, pupils will also be encouraged to explore **movement to music**. The 'Festival of the Month' will allow opportunities to explore music from different religions and cultures including music associated with Judaism and Israel when exploring the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, music from India and Pakistan when exploring the Hindu and Sikh festival of Diwali and music and songs from countries around the world where Christmas is celebrated. Pupils will be encouraged to join in with dance style activities using props such as large fans, poi scarves, ribbons, brightly decorated parasols etc. Pupils will also take part in massage sessions – they will have the opportunity to explore a range of sensory massage activities which will also encourage them to stretch/reach for objects, to roll and to experience different positions for massage e.g. lying prone over a wedge.

Pupils will continue to have regular opportunities to access **Rebound Therapy** on the trampoline and to use the swimming pool for **Hydrotherapy** sessions. Hydrotherapy sessions will generally be on Thursday afternoons, but pupils may have the opportunity to use the pool on other days of the week so their swim kit may be kept in school until their Hydrotherapy session has taken place.

Thinking Skills

Pupils will be encouraged to use their sensory skills to explore tactile activities linked to their topic, for example exploring foods from around the world; these will also be chosen to link to the Festivals of the Month.

'**Sensology**' sessions will include exploring items using all of their five senses: pupils will be offered stimuli which allow them to explore the topic of countries around the world, for example looking at brightly coloured fabrics that might be worn by ladies in Pakistan, listening to the sounds of the rainforest from the Caribbean, smelling the scent of flowers from Poland's national dress and tasting maple syrup from America (for those pupils for whom this is appropriate). Sensology sessions will also be linked to the season of Autumn: looking at the Autumn lights reflected through the trees, listening to Autumn rain, feeling pine cones, smelling pine leaves and tasting apple sauce. In addition, a Christmas themed Sensology session will include looking at fairy lights from a Christmas tree, listening to the sound of 'jingle bells', feeling tinsel, smelling cinnamon and tasting cranberry sauce.

Computing activities:

Pupils will have the opportunity to use computer programs such as 'Big Bang' and 'Target and Touch', accessed via both switches and the touch screen computer to develop cause and effect skills. Some pupils will also use the Eye Gaze computer.

Music

Pupils will be 'on their travels' with a focus on music performances inspired by land, sea, sky and space. They will explore instrumental sounds associated with trains, submarines, airplanes and rockets, with an additional adventure around a spooky castle. Pupils will become familiar with related songs and instrumental music, and enjoy performing both individually and as a group.

Forest School

Pupils will experience Forest School sessions on Tuesday mornings; please send in appropriate clothing for these outdoor activities.

Art

Pupils will experience a range of activities which will encourage them to explore the topic 'Off We Go'. They will start each lesson with a hand massage, to prepare them for using their fine motor skills. They will then be offered the chance to make choices about colours and materials to use to create their own individual pieces of art work based on different countries around the world.

Pupils will also be creating some Art work based on the seasons, for example an making an Autumn collage and making Christmas cards and calendars.