

Discoverers 3 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 pupils will be working towards the targets in their EHC Plans in all of their lessons.

The activities they 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: Enabling pupils to begin to make choices about activities, according to their individual abilities.

Topic: Terrific Transport

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 Stories:

Pupils will explore 'The Magic Box' which will enable them to discover new preferences or enjoy things they have previously, and allow us to learn how they communicate their likes and dislikes. The Magic Box is filled with a magic wand, disco ball, chimes, a space blanket, fresh mint and right at the bottom, mirrors! Looking at themselves in the mirror promotes further self-awareness as well as visual skills. To generalise and apply skills, pupils will later explore The Magic Box in the Multi-Sensory Room, where resources will be presented on a larger scale to create an immersive experience.

We will later explore a sensory story that will immerse pupils into the unique sensory experience of visiting a vehicle manufacturer, in line with our transport topic. Pupils will explore wheels and tyres along with smells and sounds that would be found in a bustling Vauxhall factory.

Story Sharing:

Story Sharing provides opportunities for pupils to share a personal experience with their classmates. Each part of the pupil's story will be accompanied by a carefully selected sensory experience, allowing learners to make links to their memory. The pupil sharing their story will come to the front of class and be supported to share as independently as possible, whilst everyone else gathers around to listen. This term, you have shared what you got up to in the Summer holidays and we can't wait to hear all about it!

Motor Skills

As well as following their individual movement plans, pupils will also participate in the **Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)**. Pupils' individual physical development targets are used to design bespoke physical activities that focus primarily on moving, striking and kicking. Pupils will practice their skill each week, working towards performing their skill in front of their classmates in true Special Olympics style!

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 Monday 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.

Music, Art and Forest School:

Pupils will explore songs, instruments and sounds through engaging practical activities. They will have opportunities to sing, make music, respond to rhythms, use switches and technology and express their preferences through musical experiences. Art sessions will focus on the process of creating and pupils will explore a variety of accessible ways to express themselves through colour, texture and movement.

Thinking Skills

Pupils will take part in a range of both high and low tech activities designed to develop their understanding of cause and effect, object permanence and a sense of control of the world around them.

They will explore planes, trains, buses, cars and boats through their senses and focus on how they move using language such as stop, go, fast and slow. Pupils will then apply their understanding of how each mode of transport moves by travelling around different areas of the school. Sound effects, water, hand held fans and giant cardboard cutouts will bring this to life!

Thinking skills will also be embedded into daily routines, for example pressing the iSwitch to move onto the next slide of the Whiteboard or to stop and start music, to push open doors and turn on light switches (where appropriate). They will be sharing the homework switch between home and school and accessing their individual communication aids. Pupils will continue to access Eyegaze, the Multi-Sensory Room and explore POV transport games using touch and switches on the Interactive Whiteboard.

Play:

Through a playful attitude, staff and pupils will play with a variety of activities organised into a carousel. Pupils will knock over towers, 'Hang Out' (Hanging Out Program – Sheridan Forster), do the limbo, play musical statues and play with the switch activated bubble machines, vibrating cushions and disco ball.

PSHCE

Pupils will focus on developing their understanding of themselves, their feelings and their relationships with others. Through consistent daily and personal care routines and personalised activities, pupils will develop awareness of their bodies, emotions, and communication. They will be supported to recognise their needs, express their feelings and understand how their bodies change as they grow. Staff will model and respond to pupils' communication, helping them to develop confidence in showing when they are happy, uncomfortable, unwell or need support.

Sensology:

Sensology provides a sensory workout by stimulating one sense at a time. This term, resources are Autumn themed and Sensology is delivered daily as part of the good morning routine.

TACPAC:

TACPAC promotes self awareness and relationship building through touch and communication. This term, pupils in Discoverers 3 will enjoy TACPAC set 4.

RE

Pupils will be introduced to the Sikh festival Vaisakhi through a sensory story designed to stimulate all seven senses. Pupils will listen to the Taus, a Sikh instrument, have the opportunity to join in with bhangra dancing, explore red and yellow materials and explore foods traditionally harvested including chickpeas, pears, lentils and flaxseed.