

Discoverers 2 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: Developing pupils' means of expressing preferences

Topic: My Favourite Things

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:

For our Autumn Sensory Story, pupils will follow the adventures of a little hedgehog as he explores the changing season. The story is told using a repetitive structure based on the Talk 4 Writing model, that is revisited each week so pupils can begin to anticipate familiar events and join in with key phrases. After each part of the story, pupils will visit sensory stations linked directly to the hedgehog's journey. They will crunch through dry autumn leaves as the hedgehog walks through the forest, smell cinnamon and mixed spices as autumn scents fill the air, feel soft and prickly textures such as fur fabric and pine cones to represent the hedgehog and his surroundings, and explore natural materials including conkers, leaves and bark. Pupils will also listen to gentle woodland sounds and watch warm autumn-coloured lights to create an immersive seasonal atmosphere.

TACPAC: Pupils will explore their favourite massage and tactile stimuli whilst listening to relaxing music as staff encourage them to communicate their preferences and make choices.

Music: 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.

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. 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 take part in a range of sensory exploration sessions designed to encourage curiosity, communication and engagement through hands-on experiences. In **messy play** sessions, pupils will explore water play, pasta play and gloop play, giving them opportunities to splash, pour, scoop, squeeze, stir and investigate a variety of textures. Through repeated experiences, pupils will become familiar with the activities, develop confidence and make choices about how they want to engage. **Switch and Assistive Technology** sessions will support pupils to understand how they can influence the world around them using Big Mack switches, access switches, Eye Gaze technology and cause-and-effect equipment. Pupils will activate resources such as bubbles, fans, lights, music and interactive games, developing independence, communication and anticipation. **Sensology** sessions will use an Autumn theme to provide a carousel of sensory experiences focusing on sight, sound, smell and taste and touch. Pupils will explore seasonal items such as leaves, conkers, pine cones and autumn scents, alongside sounds and visual experiences linked to the changing season. Across all three areas, pupils will be encouraged to explore, communicate their preferences and enjoy meaningful sensory learning experiences.

PSHCE

Pupils will focus on developing their understanding of themselves, their feelings and their relationships with others. Through Reflection Time, pupils will celebrate their achievements, share things they enjoy and take part in a special end-of-day song with their classmates.

Through 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.

RE

Pupils will explore the Christian story of Creation through a sensory story approach. They will experience key parts of the story through a range of sensory activities, objects and sounds to support their understanding and engagement. Pupils will also be introduced to Christian symbols and images, including the crucifix, which will be used as a familiar cue to show that the story comes from the Christian faith.