

Explorers 1 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

Topic:

‘The Dark’ – pupils will be learning about nocturnal animals, and exploring light and shadows.

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 developing their communication skills by introducing core words, learning the signs and symbols that represent them, and using these throughout their everyday play activities. Pupils will be encouraged to use switches to play their favourite songs, giving them the opportunity to make choices, such as deciding which song they would like, and communicating “more” or “stop.” These activities will help pupils develop their confidence, independence, and ability to express their wants and needs.

My Sensory Play

In Sensology sessions, pupils will be exploring the topic of darkness and night-time using lots of exciting sensory experiences. They will listen to the sounds of nocturnal animals, including owls, enjoy the smell of warm hot chocolate, and explore the soft textures of blankets. The class sensory tables will be filled with lots of different items to touch and investigate, including leaves, twigs, pasta, and beans. These activities will provide plenty of opportunities for the pupils to explore, discover, and enjoy a range of sights, sounds, smells, and textures.

My Physical Well-being

This term in Physical Wellbeing, pupils will explore a variety of tactile experiences using different textures and materials. They will develop body awareness through movement, stretching and sensory activities, while providing plenty of opportunities for purposeful movement during out-of-chair activities. Pupils will also work on developing fine motor skills through playdough, tools, utensils and sensory resources, helping to strengthen hand and finger muscles and improve grasp, release and hand control.

My Outdoor Learning

Pupils will explore and engage with the natural environment through a range of exciting experiences. They will develop curiosity and confidence during Forest School activities, using all their senses to investigate natural materials, plants and wildlife. Pupils will enjoy sensory garden activities and treasure hunts to develop observation and exploration skills, while encouraging them to try new experiences and build resilience. They will also explore the changing seasons and develop an understanding of the wonderful natural world around them.

My Independence

Pupils will focus on developing confidence in dressing skills, including putting on and taking off coats, hats and gloves. They will practise following simple daily routines with less adult support, being encouraged to use symbols, objects of reference, signs and communication aids to express their wants and needs. Pupils will be supported to make choices and communicate their preferences during play and everyday activities, helping to build their confidence and independence.

PSHCE

Lessons will focus on building confidence and communication, encouraging pupils to make choices and express their opinions using their preferred method of communication. They will develop positive relationships through shared play and cooperative activities, while learning to take turns, share resources and interact.

RE

Pupils will develop an awareness of themselves, others and the wider world through meaningful and engaging experiences. They will explore a range of religious and cultural celebrations through sensory and practical activities, enjoying stories, music, symbols, objects and traditions from different faiths, encouraging curiosity, understanding and respect for different beliefs, cultures and communities.

Art

The topic of 'The Dark' will involve exploring nocturnal animals and creating sensory pictures of owls using a variety of textures and materials. Later in the term, Bonfire Night will be a focus: pupils will be creating colourful masterpieces inspired by the bright colours, sparks, and patterns found in the night sky.

Music

Pupils will be listening to and exploring a variety of different musical instruments, with lots of opportunities to discover the different sounds they can make and how they look. Pupils will also get creative and have a go at making some of their own instruments, including their very own rainmakers!

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.