

2LS

Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2024



Our Values...

Welcoming Teamwork
Friendship Trust
Independence Fun!

PSHCE

(Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education)
is our whole school curriculum priority for the Spring Term.

We have a 'Keeping Safe' Day planned in January and a whole school 'Wellbeing' Day in March.

Festivals of the Month

January: Lohri
February: Chinese New Year
March: Ramadan

Topics

This term in 2LS our topics will be 'Light and Sound', 'Colour' and 'Spring/Easter'.

The pupils will be working from the Early Years Foundation Stage, and this will be assessed using the seven developmental stages across the curriculum and/or Routes For Learning.

Topics are perfect for stimulating child initiated exploration, while also supporting teaching the prime and specific areas of learning. Each child will also have their own 'Individual Education Plan', which includes their own personalised targets.

Communication and Language

During our Communication and Language sessions, pupils will be continuing to develop their listening skills through daily circle times, meal times, stories and play activities.

Total Communication will be used to engage pupils and give them methods and opportunities to communicate their needs and share their feelings.

Through a variety of sensory stories, music, songs and role play opportunities, pupils will explore different materials, sights and sounds linked to their topics.

Sensory stories this term will be 'The Big Dark', 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear?', 'The Listening Walk', 'Elmer's Rainbow', 'Mr Wolf's Pancake' and 'When Spring Comes'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Pupils will practice their self-help skills, such as washing and oral hygiene, as well as continuing to learn to identify their different body parts.

Games involving turn taking will also be a focus, to enable pupils to learn to listen and respond to each other, while developing their friendships.

As part of their topic work, pupils will use stories and songs to talk about emotions and feelings. This will also include learning about how they are all different, and exploring likes and dislikes. The celebrations of Diwali and Christmas will bring opportunities to take part in group games and performances.

Physical Development

The pupils will continue to focus on their individual targets during physical activities that include swimming, sensory movement, soft play, PE, Rebound Therapy and hand function.

Pupils will be building their confidence while swimming by learning to accept floating aids and making movements which create effects in the water. In the area of self help, pupils will be practicing holding a variety of tools which are used during mealtimes, as well as creative and cookery sessions. They will also be focusing on outdoor exercise once the weather improves.

Literacy

Pupils will be enjoying books and songs in a variety of different contexts, using sensory props, ICT and supported role play. Pupils will be encouraged to join in with repeated phrases through the use of switches, pictures and symbols.

The class role play area is set up as a Winter scene, which incorporates the topics around colour and light.

Pupils will also explore mark making with different media, including a light tray, marbles on a hard surface (sound), melted chocolate and dough (Easter) and cooked/raw noodles (Chinese New Year).

Numeracy

Pupils will be developing their awareness of number names through playing fun counting and sorting games and enjoying number songs and rhymes.

They will also be using their fingers and toes to count, with the use of counting gloves as a visual aid.

Learning numbers and shapes will be incorporated into topics by introducing fun exploratory activities. These will include exploring shapes using shadows, counting shining lights in the dark room using torches, listening for beats on a drum and rings from a bell and play involving filling and emptying coloured rice and water.

Understanding the World

The pupils will use ICT via switches and communication aids, switch operated toys and switch or touch screen 'cause and effect' computer programs. The Multi-Sensory Room and Forest School will be used to explore different environments and the changes we see during the approach to Spring.

Pupils will also have a great time exploring low technology through the use of water wheels, funnels and sponges.

The focus for this term will also be controlling lights, sounds and colours through the use of switches, touch screen, Eye Gaze technology and the sound beam.

Expressive Arts and Design

Focused Music lessons will take place twice a week, and will be taught by Ms. Steph Wellings.

Pupils will join in with a wide range of movement songs, and explore a variety of musical instruments. Pupils will also be encouraged to vocalise, create sound effects and use switches to join in with songs. They will make choices about sounds and take part in mini performances.

Art activities will include rubber band painting, light bulb templates, painting with bells and sun catchers.

To celebrate Chinese New Year, pupils will create traditional decorations which focus on light, colour and sound.

How can parents and carers support their child's learning?

Parent carers could support us by regularly sending in photographs and news from home, particularly photographs of family outings. With this information we can increase communication and help our pupils to share information with others.

Please label all items of clothing, particularly items of school uniform and swimming bags.

Many thanks for all your help and support.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are working within the scales of the Early Years Foundation Stage and / or Routes For Learning.

Their achievements will be noted through observations, work, photographs and an online assessment tool.

All pupils will also have a 'Learning Journey' book, which will follow their progress and special achievements over the year.