

# Discoverers 3

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Spring Term 2026



**Our Values...**  
**Welcoming**   **Teamwork**  
**Friendship**   **Trust**  
**Independence**   **Fun!**

#### Curriculum Enrichment

Writing Curriculum Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Wellbeing Days:  
10<sup>th</sup> February (Children's Mental Health)  
20<sup>th</sup> March (Red Nose Day)

#### Festivals of the Month

January – Vasant Panchami  
February – Chinese New Year  
March – Eid Al Fitr

#### 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:** Enabling pupils to understand how to communicate their feelings to others

**Topic:** Africa

#### 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

**Storytelling:** 'Anansi the Spider', originating from African folktales, will be used to support pupils' understanding of how to communicate their feelings to others. These stories are often humorous and conclude with a clear moral, such as the importance of sharing and showing respect for others. The stories will be made interactive and will incorporate repetition, cause-and-effect, and rich sensory experiences, providing meaningful opportunities for engagement, communication, and sensory exploration.

Through interactive Anansi storytelling, pupils will be introduced to African storytelling traditions in an experiential way. They will engage with rhythm, music, and storytelling styles drawn from these cultures, developing early cultural familiarity through shared sensory experiences such as sound, movement, texture, and interaction.

**Intensive Interaction:** Pupils will work on their individual communication targets through their Intensive Interaction sessions, with opportunities to develop the Fundamentals of Communication, including use of eye contact, turn taking, sharing attention and using vocalisations.

**TACPAC** inspired activities: Pupils will be encouraged to respond to each African themed activity, by using facial expression, gesture or vocalisation, to express like/dislike or to request more/no more. Sessions will include using relaxing music and images, with a range of stimuli which pupils find enjoyable.

## Motor Skills

**Hydrotherapy/Physiotherapy swim sessions:** These will take place on Monday afternoons. Physio swim sessions will be in 6-week blocks and will be for identified pupils.

**Liquid Listening:** On a rota basis, pupils will engage in Musical Hydrotherapy an innovative therapy combining listening to sound inside the water alongside aquatic body therapy techniques to relax body and mind, inspire movement, stretching, vocalisation, stillness, reduce agitation and enhance wellbeing.

**Rebound Therapy:** Sessions will concentrate on helping to improve movement, balance, tone, fitness and communication skills. Pupils will benefit from increased sensory integration, spatial awareness, confidence in movement, improved posture, communication and social skills and improved quality of life and independence (particularly for those pupils who are Preparing for Adulthood).

**Gross Motor Skills (Classroom/Outside):** Opportunities will be provided to access the Sensory Garden, track, Soft Play and Forest School. Pupils will have access to the Tricycle as well as following their individual Movement Plans.

Lunchtime club for this term will be 'Glow in the dark fun games'.

## Thinking Skills

Pupils will work towards their individual Thinking Skills targets using a range of engaging computer programmes such as 'Big Bang' and 'Target and Touch'. These can be accessed using switches or the touch-screen computer and help pupils develop cause-and-effect understanding and make simple choices. Pupils will also have opportunities to use Grid with Eye Gaze technology to explore communication and express their preferences, supporting pupil voice.

### **Fun Experiments:**

Pupils will take part in fun, hands-on experiments linked to their topic and the stories they are exploring. These activities connect to characters, scenes, or themes from the stories while introducing early Scientific and Mathematical concepts in a playful and meaningful way.

### **ICT:**

Pupils will use technology to help control interactive storytelling pages using switches or the touch-screen computer. This will activate a range of images, sounds, and videos linked to class topics, encouraging pupils to use their visual and listening skills to engage, respond, and show anticipation.

## Outdoor Learning

Pupils will explore the changing seasons outdoors, using their senses in hands on activities to notice and enjoy nature.

## Music

Pupils will be experiencing changes in dynamics (loud and quiet sounds), with the theme of African adventures as a focus for selecting suitable songs and musical material. They will become familiar with a range of traditional African songs, exploring instruments such as the djembe drum, cabasa and balafon, and musically interact with each other through each song's traditional call and response structure.

## PSHCE

Pupils will have opportunities to experience activities within the areas of 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Feelings'. Pupils will be encouraged to communicate their feelings to others and will be given frequent opportunities to take part in activities that enable them to begin making choices, according to their individual abilities.

## Art

Pupils will explore the theme of Africa through colour, texture, and sound, creating bold head-dresses and African inspired instruments using a range of sensory materials. Sessions will focus on sensory exploration and choice making, while supporting creativity, communication, and enjoyment through hands on art experiences.