

Discoverers 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 Gurburab
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: Encouraging pupils to express their likes and dislikes

Topic: Step back in Time

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

Pupils will develop their communication and interaction skills through the exciting topic 'Step Back in Time!' as they explore dinosaurs and enjoy music from different decades through playful, sensory and movement-based activities.

During daily morning routines, pupils will have familiar opportunities to recognise their name, interact with familiar adults and friends, make choices and express their preferences. The class puppet, Betty, will help to capture pupils' attention and encourage positive interactions and shared enjoyment.

Pupils will have the opportunity to engage with the 'Dinosaur Hunt' sensory story, exploring a variety of sounds, textures, smells and sensory props. The story will be repeated regularly, giving pupils opportunities to become familiar with the sequence, anticipate what happens next and develop their attention and engagement. Staff will carefully observe pupils' responses to discover their likes and dislikes and adapt activities to reflect their individual interests.

Through Story Massage, TACPAC and Intensive Interaction, pupils will develop shared attention, turn-taking, listening, anticipation and positive relationships with others. Music from different decades will provide opportunities for pupils to explore rhythm, movement and sound while discovering which experiences they like. Throughout the term, pupils' individual responses, interests, likes and dislikes will be carefully observed and celebrated, helping staff to create meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences for every pupil.

Motor Skills

Pupils will develop their sensory and physical skills through fun, engaging and movement-based activities.

Pupils will begin their day with HEART (Healthy, Engaged And Regulated Transitions to learning), supporting them to feel comfortable, regulated and ready to learn. Postural care and positioning will remain an important part of the school day, helping pupils to maximise their comfort and physical abilities. Pupils will have daily opportunities to follow their individual movement programmes, set by their physiotherapist. This may include using standing or walking frames, benches and taking part in passive and active stretches. Festival of the Month will provide meaningful opportunities to explore different religions and cultures through music, movement and sensory experiences.

Fine motor and hand function skills will be developed through Autumn-themed sensory activities, encouraging pupils to explore seasonal textures and materials through squeezing, shaking, grasping, tapping, crinkling and making marks. Pupils will have regular access to Hydrotherapy and Rebound Therapy, working towards individual movement targets while developing body awareness and enjoying positive interactions. Weekly Soft Play sessions will provide further opportunities for movement, action songs, story massage and mindfulness.

Thinking Skills

Pupils will be supported to develop their curiosity, attention, anticipation and problem-solving skills through a range of playful and sensory activities. They will have opportunities to explore, make choices, notice changes and build on their experiences through repetition and familiar routines.

Pupils will have opportunities to explore cause and effect using assistive technology, switches, interactive screens, switch toys, Sound Beam and the Eyegaze computer. These activities will encourage pupils to explore how their actions can create sounds, movement, lights and other responses. Pupils will also develop their visual and auditory attention through activities that encourage them to locate, track and focus on objects, images and sounds.

Sensory play will provide opportunities to explore dinosaurs and Autumn through a range of arts, crafts, messy food play and tactile experiences. Pupils will be encouraged to explore different textures, materials, sounds and smells, with activities focusing on curiosity, exploration and the enjoyment of the process rather than creating a finished product.

Dinosaur-themed Sensology will provide a repeated routine using sensory resources, music and movement, supporting pupils to explore their senses while developing attention and engagement.

Throughout these activities, staff will carefully observe pupils' responses, discovering their likes, dislikes and preferences and using these to inform future learning experiences.

Music

Pupils will be exploring texture (changes in the groupings of sounds), with a focus on proactive skills when creating music individually and with others. Through musical material selected around the class's prehistoric theme, sessions will explore the concept of 'step back in time' with dinosaur adventures; pupils will become familiar with new songs and create soundscapes that depict gentle footsteps up to the loudest of dinosaur roars.

PSHE

Pupils will develop their understanding of feelings, relationships and positive mental health through fun, sensory activities, music, stories and massage. They will have opportunities to build positive relationships, take turns, celebrate successes and recognise differences. Relaxation and sensory activities will support pupils to regulate, develop self-awareness and experience positive wellbeing.

RE

During Festival of the Month activities pupils will explore religious and cultural festivals through sensory, musical and creative experiences, experiencing different traditions, sounds, textures and celebrations.