

Explorers 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

Topic: Festivals and Feasts

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 develop their communication and interaction skills through a range of engaging, sensory-based activities. They will take part in daily "Good Morning" greetings, learn signs through song, and explore sensory stories to support listening and understanding. Sensory storytelling will take place on Mondays in the Multi-Sensory Room, with pupils engaging in different stories based around our topic Festivals and Feasts.

Throughout the week, pupils will focus on building their communication bank of meaningful words, developing their ability to use these in context to make requests, express choices, and interact with others. This will be worked on during shared attention and play.

My Sensory Play

Building on previous outcomes, activities will be linked to the topic of Festivals and Feasts, supporting engagement through sensory experiences inspired by celebrations from around the world.

Pupils will explore a variety of textures, sounds, colours, lights, smells, and tastes through activities such as coloured rice, scented play dough, water play, foam, fabrics, natural materials, and sensory food exploration. Festival-themed resources, including fairy lights, ribbons, bells, musical instruments, fruit and vegetables, spices, and cultural artefacts, will encourage exploration through touch, sight, sound, smell, and movement at each pupil's own pace.

My Physical Well-being

Pupils will enjoy movement sessions doing Gymnastics to build coordination, confidence, and physical skills. They will learn how to complete a sequence of movements and build on the skills they have learnt to use apparatus. They will also participate in individual movement plans tailored to their needs, promoting both enjoyment and development in physical wellbeing.

My Outdoor Learning

Pupils will be exploring the magical changes from Summer to Autumn and Autumn to Winter through sensory outdoor experiences. Pupils will investigate natural treasures such as leaves, conkers, pine cones, acorns, moss and blackberries, using their senses, hands and simple tools to develop fine motor skills, coordination and cause and effect through pouring, scooping, mixing and transferring. They will create leaf wreaths, spooky spiders and blackberry splat paintings, before experiencing the warmth, sights and sounds of a real campfire to celebrate Bonfire Night.

My Independence

Pupils will be continuing to develop their independence skills taking greater responsibility for completing daily tasks such as organising their belongings and dressing independently. They will also continue to develop their practical life skills, learning how to clean their teeth. Cooking for Explorers 2 is going to be a mixture of skill-based learning and process-based learning. The core skills will be learned via a set sequence of activities that are repeated many times.

PSHCE

Pupils will focus on developing friendships and positive relationships by taking part in shared play, classroom activities, and daily greeting routines. Pupils' emotional wellbeing will be supported by helping them explore ways to feel calm and relaxed through regular calming sessions, sensory massage, self-regulation opportunities in the cosy corner, and mindfulness walks around the track.

RE

Pupils will experience different festivals and celebrations including Harvest Festival, Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah and Christmas. They will engage in sensory play linked to light, colour, music, food, nature, and celebration, helping them develop an awareness of traditions and special events celebrated by different communities.

Art

Through experimentation and sensory play, pupils will explore a variety of materials and techniques based on the class topic, with encouragement to work increasingly independently. They will watch a variety of practical demonstrations and actively engage in techniques to create a variety of outcomes. Pupils will be introduced to the work of a variety of artists whose work is inspired by their topic, exploring printing, painting, collage and mixed materials.

Music

Pupils will develop their instrumental skills by exploring a wide range of instruments and increasing their experiences of controlling and changing sounds. Musical material will be selected around the class's focus on Festivals and Feasts, and will include musical games linked to food items and songs inspired by celebrated events.

How can parent carers support their child's learning?

We kindly ask that pupils come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, in clothing that allows them to practise dressing and undressing independently. We also encourage you to continue supporting your child's communication at home and to promote independence in their everyday activities.