

4LS

Curriculum Newsletter



Autumn Term 2019

Topic: "Getting to know you"

The development of the **curriculum** is the **whole school focus** for this year.

The teaching of **reading** will be the focus during this Autumn term. We will be using Sensory Stories for this.

'**Africa**' will also be a focus for all pupils this term, as we prepare to welcome teachers from our partner school in Nairobi for a week in November.

Early Communication Skills

Pupils will follow the Barrs Court and EQUALS Curriculum for the development of Early Communication Skills.

Activities will include:

- Whole class sensory story sessions:

This term's story is focused on 'What do you like?' in which the children will be expressing preferences and sharing their likes and dislikes with one another.

- *TACPAC style communication sessions:*

Pupils will be encouraged to respond to each TACPAC item, by using facial expression, gesture or vocalisation, to express like/dislike or to request more/no more.

- Intensive Interaction sessions where pupils will work on their individual targets.

These sessions also give pupils the opportunity to develop social exchanges, e.g. taking turns, smiling/laughing, wanting more, showing interest in others, and giving eye contact.

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 SOLAR framework, which includes video and photographic evidence.

Their overall progress is measured using the 'Routes for Learning' assessment framework.

Early Thinking Skills

Pupils will follow the Barrs Court and EQUALS Curriculum for the Early Thinking Skills.

Activities will include:

- Messy Food Play:

Pupils will be encouraged to explore foods linked to our theme "Getting to know you" whereby the children will be encouraged to communicate their preferences and use their senses to explore a wide variety of foods. As pupils explore these foods, they will be encouraged to work towards their individual 'Thinking Skills' targets.

- Sensory Trays:

Pupils will be encouraged to explore different trays related to preferences, e.g. lights, water, crunchy cereal, scented cloud dough.

- Mark Making (Early Art):

Pupils will be encouraged to use different media to mark make. These will be linked to the school 'African' theme by exploring different animals, including:

- . white chalk on black paper - zebra
- . Red & yellow paint in ziplock bags - lion
- . Brown edible paint and string - monkey
- . Food colouring over ice - parrot

Music

Pupils will develop a sense of steady beat whilst exploring music and songs from this term's whole-school theme, Africa. Through movement, body percussion and a wide range of instruments they will focus in particular on contrasting rhythms and experience changes in tempo. From November, the class will also begin rehearsing for their Christmas performance in December.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

At the end of each day the children take part in a quiet Reflection Time; a chance for pupils to celebrate their achievements, things that they enjoyed that day, as well as taking part in collective worship activities.

Forest School

Pupils will experience weekly sessions in our outdoor 'Forest School' environment, with a qualified Leader. These sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons. Please do send in appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather!

Early Motor Skills

Each day, the pupils will work on their Motor Skills, following objectives from the Barrs Court and EQUALS Curriculum, as well as their personal physiotherapy targets.

The children will have time out of their chairs each day when they experience a range of physical activities that include Soft Play, Hydrotherapy, Rebound Therapy, and the Multi-Sensory Room. Hydrotherapy sessions will be on a Monday afternoon. These are fun sessions aimed at encouraging movement, and provide the opportunity for pupils to work on their individual physiotherapy targets.

During classroom activities, where appropriate, pupils will have opportunities to practise their sitting and standing skills; as well as experiencing changes of position such as sitting on a bench and using their standing frames.

Pupils will be encouraged to develop muscle tone by taking part in using light, gentle, strong and tense movements; rhythmic/continuous gross motor co-ordination movement development whilst listening to music linked to our 'Africa' theme. The pupils will have the opportunity to use twirling ribbons, scarves, as well as percussion instruments such as wrist bells.

Computing

Pupils will have a weekly session in the 'Computer Room', where they will take part in a range of activities, including: the use of switches to control on-screen activities, practising their touch screen skills, and developing their understanding of 'cause and effect' by using the Eye Gaze computer.

RE

Pupils will be encouraged to engage with sensory experiences linked to a range of world religions. This term, pupils will be exploring some of the symbols used in different religions. For example, holding a crucifix, examining Hindu statues of gods and goddesses and touching prayer beads.

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

Please use the Home-School books to communicate any useful information or interesting news about your child. Please provide any snacks for your child for break times, if appropriate. If you have any concerns, please feel free to call us. (If we can't come to the phone, we will call back as soon as we are able to.)