

14US Upper School Curriculum Newsletter



Autumn Term 2019

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.

'**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.

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 'routes for learning'.

Topic: **Who am I?**

Communication Skills

Pupils will follow the Barr's Court Curriculum for the development of Communication Skills.

This term, communication skills will be delivered using a combination of whole class activities, small group work and on a one to one basis using the theme: **Marvel Super Hero's**. One to one sessions and small group work will include activities such as: Intensive Interaction, 'Tac Pac', story massage, rebound sessions, interaction in the swimming pool and through exploring stories and drama.

Activities will include:

I am a Superhero - Tac Pac activity:

Music, touch and superhero style sensory props will be used to form a sequence and repeated in the same way each time. **Resources will include:** *fans, switches, lights/torch, streamers, shiny material, fur, Velcro, rainmaker, bubbles and a range of smells.*

The Black Panther- Sensory Story: This story is set in Wakanda in Africa and is about the Black Panther searching for the magical heart shaped Wakandan plant which gives him super-human powers. The story will be brought to life using meaningful sensory experiences. The story will be repeated each week and staff will record pupils' **levels of engagement and preferences**.

Handa's Surprise - Sensory Tastes and Smells: Storytelling/drama session of the familiar story 'Handa's surprise'. Pupils will have opportunities to smell, feel and taste different foods from the story. Staff will observe preferences and encourage pupils to make choices.

Resources such as the Eye Gaze computer, sound beam, iPads, communication devices and 'objects of reference' will be used so that pupils can record their own work and ideas. Pupils will be given the opportunity at all times to make choices and indicate their preferences which staff will respond to appropriately.

Engagement for Living

Pupils will follow the Barr's Court Curriculum for Thinking Skills, which is based upon the National Curriculum for early development in Mathematics and Science.

Pupils will access learning opportunities through the class theme of:

Marvel Super Hero's.

Activities will include:

Like - A Sensory sequence for getting to know each other: Pupils will have the opportunity to explore 'like' boxes within a small group. The four boxes will contain **sights, smells, tastes and touches**.

Sounds are provided by the bells on the 'like' box itself and through singing the sequence. **Actions** may address the vestibular and proprioceptive senses as people greet each other. Staff will keep track of pupils likes and dislikes and record engagement for learning in the areas of **responsiveness, investigation, curiosity, anticipation, persistence, discovery and initiation**.

Marvel Studios - Creating a superhero's environment: Pupils will have the opportunity to access different environmental controls and technology in order to create their own superhero planet. Inclusive technology will include Clicker 7, choose it, touch screen and look to learn on the Eye Gaze. Staff will create personalised activities for pupils to choose their own music, video clips and control the colours and equipment in the MSR. The sound beam equipment will allow pupils to be creative and make superhero sounds and theme tunes. Staff will record pupils preferred form of access and the technology that motivates them the most in order to extend their skills further.

Health

Class staff work closely with the physiotherapy team in order to support pupils to maximise their physical abilities.

They will have daily opportunities to follow their personal movement program and have regular changes of position including floor time, bench sitting and standing, where appropriate.

All pupils will have access to rebound, hydrotherapy and the multi-sensory room each week.

Class activities will include:

Avengers Assemble: Pupils will experience being different superhero characters through movement, touch and actions during a repeated 'Tac Pac' style activity. The popular Marvel themed music will be a sensory cue to transform into a famous superhero character and staff will support and encourage pupils to actively stretch and move throughout each sequence. Staff will observe pupils' preferences, creative ideas and record engagement for learning in **responsiveness, anticipation and persistence.**

African Safari Massage Sequence: Using familiar 'Once Upon a Touch' massage strokes pupils will experience a story about being on an African Safari trip, searching for the Black Panther superhero! Staff will encourage pupils to move and stretch to imitate actions or create their own personal ones. Time will be given for reflection and relaxation at the end of the sequence.

Marvel team games: Pupils will take turns to throw a superhero dice, whichever character it lands on will prompt all pupils to become that character. For example: if it lands on superman the parachute will be used to create the feel of flying through the air, if it lands on Flash, pupils will move very quickly from one side of the room to the other.

P.E will take place on a Thursday, the focus will be Sensory Football. The pupils will explore the movement of different types of balls through throwing, kicking and scoring a goal.

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 performances in December.

Art

Art lessons will take place in the Art room with Mrs Lloydlangston. Pupils will follow the whole school theme of 'Africa' concentrating on colour, pattern and sound. They will experience visual, tactile and audio stimulus exploring African portraiture and then make clear choices about colour, tools and paint application.

They will create a range of experimental, 2 dimensional colour pieces which will culminate in a photographic self-portrait. We will also work with tactile stimulus incorporating colour and sound. This work will be hung in class to observe and interact with on a regular basis.

Community Inclusion

Pupils will continue to attend the community group 'Keep on Moving' where they can take part in active leisure activities and generalise their social skills with a wider range of people. We will also be visiting places of interest relevant to our topic such as the '**Safari Park African Village**' and '**Akamba Garden Centre**'. Pupils will also continue to have opportunities to access a range of leisure facilities and community events such as bowling, ice skating, dance and team games. Pupils in year 13/14 will visit a variety of post-19 provisions in order to support transition and life after school.

Computing

Pupils will have access to a range of specialist equipment such as Eye Gaze, sound beam, iPads, touch screens, switches, communication aids and environmental controls across all areas of the curriculum in a range of different situations. Pupils will also have the opportunity to access different software and personalised 'Clicker 7' activities which will allow them to make more choices, express their preferences and record their own ideas.

Communication aids such as 4talk4, 2switch devices and Big Mac switches will be incorporated into lessons so that pupils can join in and contribute their opinions and ideas.

Pupils will have the opportunity to control their own environment by using movement, Eye Gaze and appropriate switches.

Staff will observe and record pupils preferred method of access and ensure it is available so they are fully included in all learning activities.

Mental Wellbeing/PHSSE

'Reflection time' takes place regularly throughout the day so pupils can celebrate their achievements and process their learning. They will have chance to be 'star of the day' for good effort during challenging activities. Positive Mental Health will be a focus during all activities throughout the day. Personal care routines will be pedagogical opportunities to engage with intensive interaction and one to one conversations to build positive relationships.