

**4LS**

## Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2020



### Our Values...

**Welcoming**   **Teamwork**  
**Friendship**   **Trust**  
**Independence**   **Fun!**

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

The teaching of **reading** will also continue to be a focus throughout the year.

The teaching of **Maths** will be the focus during this Spring term.

Our class theme for this 'Having Fun!'

### Early Communication Skills

Pupils will work on the following activities taken from Barrs Court and EQUALS Curriculum:

Pupils will work towards their individual Communication Skills targets through a variety of personalised activities during these sessions including: offering pupils a favourite activity, then pausing in order to allow pupils to show enjoyment; request 'more' or 'no more'; encouraging some pupils to recognise Objects of Reference and to use these as a prompt to join in an activity; developing pupils' anticipation skills through a range of play activities.

**TACPAC**—opportunities for developing anticipation, sequencing and social interaction.

**Sensory Stories:** This term's sensory story is themed around 'Having Fun' and will be an adaptation of the story 'How to catch a star' By Oliver Jeffers. It will include:

- opportunities for pupils to build on their concentration and engagement levels through pressing switches to control Clicker 7 slides, which help to tell the story and play music/sounds.
- repetitive elements, allowing pupils to recognise parts of the story and anticipate the next action, as well as encourage vocalisation.
- incorporating the senses: smell, touch, sound, sight. E.g. the sound of seagulls on a switch, the smell of the sea.

**Intensive Interaction:** used throughout the day with the pupils by all adults, but will be used as a focus in communication sessions, allowing them to work closely with adults on their personal targets, (x3 weekly).

### 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 experience a variety of sensory play activities taken from Barrs Court Curriculum and EQUALS Curriculum, which involve exploring materials and their properties. The focus for our theme will be exploring materials related to our topic: 'Having fun!'

Activities will include:

**Messy Food Play**—sensory exploration through food ingredients e.g. mashed potato at different stages from raw to cooked, being involved in the process of it changing state.

**Forest School**—exploring the outside environment through all our senses e.g. the feeling of wet mud on their skin, the sound of birds, the sound/smell of a forest school fire.

**Computing**—pupils will develop their cause and effect skills through the use of switches linked to our theme 'Having Fun'.

**Sensory Exploration**—weekly opportunity to explore the sensory make up of any objects and materials, both individually and mixed together. Repetition of the same sensory trays will be used per term to provide opportunity to develop preferences and opportunities for anticipation. Trays to be used this term: 'Baking' - squirty cream, cake cases, crumbled cakes to feel and taste (where appropriate), 'beach' - water, shells, wet sand, 'dressing up tray' - hats and scarves to try on and a mirror to see, 'massage tray' - scented creams, brushes, rollers.

**Mark Making** (early Art) - sensory and cognitive development opportunities; exploring and manipulating materials offered e.g. pressing fingers into wet sand, tolerating different substances for longer periods of time, mark making in paint using hands/feet/fingers/toes, mark making in spices, rice and edible paint.

### Music

In Music this term pupils will explore and become increasingly familiar with a wide range of unusual instrumental sounds. Through song-based work, instrumental activities and musical games they will experience humorous vocal and instrumental sounds in music written specifically for comedic effect. As a class they will combine sounds to create their own 'silly' music!

Additionally, the pupils will be having some sessions with the CBSO musicians.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Pupils will develop their skills in the following areas:

Health and Wellbeing: Feelings

Relationships: Helping others

Positive Mental Health: Having fun

Pupils will also have time throughout the day to work on their own personal PSHE targets. Staff will encourage pupils to follow their personal well-being strategies in order to engage with a range of activities in class and help them to remain calm and focused during the school day.

### 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

Pupils will work on the following activities (taken from Barrs Court Curriculum and EQUALS Curriculum):

- **Hydrotherapy**—weekly sessions on a Monday afternoon (please provide swimming kit) in the pool concentrating on skills such as maintaining balance in the water with/without adult support, as well as providing an opportunity for pupils to relax their muscles or develop muscle tone.
- **Rebound therapy**—weekly sessions on the trampoline to concentrate on muscle tone, balance, body awareness, whilst having fun and expressing choices.
- **Soft play** — stretches and movements detailed on their personalised physiotherapy programmes, such as: bench sitting, lying prone, lying supine, walking with support, standing with support.
- **Stretches and “dance”** - children will have the opportunity to have time out of their chairs, whilst listening to rhythmic music. Use of auditory and visual objects (e.g. scarves, pom-poms, lights) for children to reach towards. Within these sessions the pupils will be able to explore gentle, strong, relaxed and tense movements. Use of the same pieces of music throughout the term are advised by EQUALS Curriculum to develop anticipation and enjoyment. These sessions aim to improve gross and fine motor skills and 'muscle memory', whilst tolerating passive movements where appropriate.

### Computing

Pupils will have weekly sessions in the Computing suite to work on their personalised 'Thinking Skills' targets through fun and engaging activities involving sensory interactive software, such as: Big Bang patterns, activating Big Mack switches.

Pupils will have opportunities to access 1:1 sessions using Eye Gaze technology to practice skills, such as: tracking visual stimuli, recognising their own effects on the environment around them, showing preference towards stimuli.

### RE

Pupils will be supported to develop their experiences of world religions. This term's theme is:

- What is it like to be inside a Christian or Muslim sacred place?

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore artefacts that they may find in these places e.g. cross, prayer mat. Pupils will explore the artefacts and experience sounds/sights that they might see.

### Mark Making

Each session, the pupils will be encouraged to explore and interact with different sensory stimuli, including: edible paint, Greek yoghurt, jam, rice and jelly.

They will be given the opportunity and time to make clear choices to create individual pieces of work.