

7LS

## Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term



**Our Values...**  
**Welcoming    Teamwork**  
**Friendship    Trust**  
**Independence    Fun!**

Although school is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our curriculum newsletters are a guide for parent carers as to the topics and themes planned by staff for the Summer term. There are learning resources and activities available on the school website under 'home learning' if you'd like to use them, though please do not feel under pressure to do so. At this challenging time, our children just need to feel safe and loved, they need to play, explore and try fun distracting activities.

### Early Communication Skills

Our 7LS class theme for this term is 'Changing and Growing'.

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

Activities will include:

#### **Whole class sensory story sessions:**

Ideas for sensory stories will continue to be posted on the school website, so that pupils will be able to join in with these at home.

#### **Intensive Interaction planned 1:1**

**sessions:** If you are interested in finding out more about how to engage in Intensive Interaction with your child at home, please watch some of the videos on Dave Hewitt's YouTube channel and don't be afraid to have a go! (<https://www.youtube.com/user/III209>)

#### **'Touch and Communication' sessions:**

Pupils will take turns to engage with a range of stimuli, which are matched to relaxing music, and show responses. A range of examples can be found on our website.

### 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 Curriculum and the EQUALS Pre-Formal Curriculum for Early Thinking Skills.

Activities will include:

#### **Messy Food Play:**

Pupils may enjoy exploring foods which have been chosen to link to our 'Festival of the Month' work, which is the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Traditionally, dairy foods are eaten at this festival, so foods could include cottage cheese, custard, rice pudding.

#### **Sensory exploration:**

This term's theme of 'Changing and Growing' can be linked to exploring the natural world, such as finding out about animals: touching objects which feel like animals' skin/fur, listening to animal sounds, looking at pictures and video clips of animals and observing how they move, stroking birds' feathers and observing insects.

Pupils could also explore plants by tasting different fruits and vegetables, smelling herbs and flowers, touching different kinds of leaves, making bark rubbings and leaf prints, making fruit and vegetable prints and making a collage from natural items.

As pupils explore all of these activities, they will be working towards their individual 'Thinking Skills' targets.

### Early Motor Skills

A range of activities are planned for this term, which should be matched to pupils' individual movement skills. These could include: placing objects and materials with interesting tactile properties around the pupils for them to discover and explore; setting up sensory trails and obstacle courses and encouraging pupils to move around them.

Encouraging pupils to move over and under different sensory resources, e.g. length of textured fabric, bubble wrap, blanket, textured card; sitting/lying pupils under an activity arch with different sensory items suspended from it, placed at different heights and positions so that pupils have to reach for them; encouraging pupils to throw/roll balls, beanbags, etc; encouraging pupils to track a visual source to follow where it goes. Placing favourite objects just out of pupils' reach so the pupil has to adjust their position to reach for them.

Playing tugging games with pupils, sitting opposite them: incorporate bells/shakers so they make an interesting sound when pulled.

Encouraging pupils to crawl/shuffle over obstacles/around a sensory circuit/through hoops/tunnels/over cushions.

There are some movement ideas in the PE section of our website, some of which can be adapted to suit individual pupils' needs.

Also, our 'Touch and Communication' and story massage ideas in the Sensory Learners section can be used to encourage movement for our pupils.

### Music

In addition to the links and resources on our school website's Home Learning pages, here is a great opportunity for your child to make music at home! Chadsgrove has been given increased access to the award-winning **Clarion™** instrument, an expressive accessible instrument developed for young disabled people and it also works seamlessly with Eye Gaze computers.

**To download:** Go to <https://bit.ly/clarionmusic> and watch one of the short videos on the Download page. That will show you how to download and install Clarion™ for either iPad or Windows devices. There are also a few videos on the website to help you get started making music. Open Up Music will continue adding films to the website over the summer.

**Username:** Summer2020

**Password:** start.group.745

Happy music making! Have fun!

### Computing

Over the summer term the focus will be on maintaining skills your child has learned this year in computing.

The ICT section of the school website will be regularly updated with useful websites and tasks for your child to support this.

### RE

Pupils will be encouraged to engage with sensory experiences linked to a range of world religions.

This term, pupils will be focusing on elements of the Jewish and Buddhist religions. This could include listening to music from these religions, listening to stories and being encouraged to join in quiet 'reflection time' sessions, using candles and music.

### Art

Pupils can focus on exploring how nature grows and changes. Have some fun by going on a treasure hunt for items and use them to create a 'mandala'. Pupils could help to paint pebbles then use them to create a pathway leading to a favourite place in the garden. Create natural art work by making patterns on the grass using flowers, moss, twigs, pebbles, using old bits of wood or twigs to make a frame. We would love to see photos of your work!

### PSHE

This term, pupils will be encouraged to experience their favorite things and things that make them happy. Hopefully, for those pupils who enjoy being outdoors, this will include spending time appreciating nature and the changing world around them as summer approaches. Other pupils may enjoy indoor based activities such as playing with water, sand or leaves and flowers.