

## 7LS Curriculum Newsletter



**Autumn Term 2019**

### Topic:

'Our Favourite Things' and 'Africa'

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.

### Early Communication Skills

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:*

This term's story, themed around 'My Favourite Things' will be a story about the pupils sharing some of their favourite activities together.

*Intensive Interaction planned 1:1 sessions:*

Pupils will work on individual communication targets through their Intensive Interaction work.

*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.

### 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 will be encouraged to explore foods which have been chosen to link to our 'African' theme, including:  
dry food: cous cous / lentils  
sticky/slimy food: Banana / semolina  
wet food: coconut yogurt / melon.  
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 'African' themed sensory trays including:

'Savannah' tray - toy animals hiding in 'grass' (green and yellow tinsel shred)

Rainforest tray - oats (some dyed green and some plain), frogs, other green and brown items, e.g. tissue paper, green pipe cleaner, brown pipe cleaner

Desert tray - 'sand' (coconut cloud dough) with a toy snake hiding underneath

Water tray - water with plastic toy tropical fish.

### Early Motor Skills

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

Pupils will be encouraged to take part in movement/'dance' activities, linked to our 'Africa' theme, e.g.:

Move in time to music using twirling ribbons, chiffon scarves etc.

Use music and lights as well as props such as chiffon scarves with gentle movements, ribbon streamers with flowing, continuous movements etc. Explore light, gentle, strong, relaxed and tense movements. Explore visual and sound patterns and sequences, e.g. using coloured lights, body/vocal sounds and combine these with movement.

Use percussion instruments to create simple rhythms for pupils to move to, then give pupils wrist bells so they can combine sound making with rhythmical music.

Hydrotherapy sessions will be on Thursday afternoons; pupils will also continue to have the opportunity for regular Rebound Therapy.

### 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.

### Art

Pupils will have Art lessons in the Art Room with Mrs Mole. This term they will be focusing on African art through colour and multi media. They will explore and interact with paint, colour, tools and make clear choices to create individual pieces of work. They will interact and make choices about textures, shapes and sounds. They will take part in creating final pieces of work by making choices and exploring materials.

### 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.

### Forest School

Pupils will experience weekly sessions in our outdoor 'Forest School' environment, with a qualified Leader.

These sessions will take place on Wednesday mornings: please do send in appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather!

### PSHE

'Reflection Time' takes places at the end of each day, a chance for the pupils to celebrate their achievements and things that they have enjoyed during that day, as well as taking part in collective worship activities.