

## 14US Upper School Curriculum Newsletter



### Summer Term 2019

The teaching of **Maths** will be the **whole school focus** for this year.

Lesson observations took place during last autumn term with the focus on how numeracy is taught across the curriculum. Teachers shared good practice.

**Science** will be a focus during this Summer term of 2019.

#### 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: **Growth and Change**

#### Communication Skills

Pupils will follow the Barr's Court Curriculum for the development of Early 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: **Life Cycles**

One to one sessions and small group work will include activities such as: Intensive Interaction, 'Tac Pac', massage, rebound sessions, interaction in the swimming pool and through exploring stories and drama.

#### **Activities will include:**

**Cocoon-A Sensory Story:** This story tells the familiar life cycle of a butterfly which is bought to life by meaningful sensory experiences.

**Cocoon - A Sensory Massage:** Using familiar massage strokes pupils will have the opportunity to express their preferences, anticipate the repeated sequence, initiate actions/interactions and develop total communication strategies such as- eye contact, vocalisations, body language and gestures.

**Cocoon-Sensory tastes:** Storytelling/drama session of the familiar story 'the hungry caterpillar'. Pupils will have opportunities to smell, feel and taste different foods from the story. Staff will observe preferences and encourage pupils to make choices.

**Exploration activities:** Pupils will have the opportunity to create a caterpillar and a butterfly by exploring the materials with their hands and feet. Staff will observe preferences.

**Human growth and Change:** Pupils will have the opportunity to bring in baby pictures of themselves from home which will be displayed on the big screen as well as pictures of what they look like now. Pictures, video clips and music will be displayed on personalised grids using Clicker 7 so that pupils can use switches, touch screen or eye gaze to tell their own life story.

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.

### Thinking Skills

Pupils will follow the Barr's Court Curriculum for Early 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: **Life Cycles**

#### **Activities will include:**

**The Tiny Seed:** Pupils will listen to the story, grow their own plant and explore each sequence of events as a sensory experience. Resources include seeds, straw or fans (to blow the seeds,) earth, sand and ice (to see which is best for the seed to grow,) watering can, torch, big macs and 4talk4 switches.

**Nature come to life:** Pupils will have the opportunity to create their own botanical gardens in our Multi sensory room. Sensory equipment such as projectors, bubble tube, magic carpet, fibre optics, magic mirror, sound floor and electric fans will be used to create a colourful and vibrant environment. Pupils will be encouraged to control their own environment by using a range of switches, iPads, movement and eye gaze to operate the room and staff will observe levels of engagement and interests.

**The Hungry Caterpillar:** Pupils will listen to the familiar story and have the opportunity to taste, smell and feel sweet, sour and savoury ingredients of the different foods. Staff will observe preferences and encourage pupils to investigate further.

**Human Life Cycle the musical:** Pupils will be given time to explore and experience operating the sound beam by listening to different sounds, rhythms and melodies. Staff will support pupils to activate this equipment and create a sequence of preferred sounds which represent the human life cycle. The finished piece of creative music will be played during a class assembly.

### Motor Skills

Class staff work closely with the physiotherapy team in order to support pupils to maximise their physical abilities. Pupils will have the opportunity to follow their personal movement program each day and have regular changes of position including floor time, bench sitting, walking and standing, where appropriate. They will have access to rebound, hydrotherapy and multi-sensory room each week.

Activities will include:

**Outdoor walks and active exploration of the environment:** Staff will encourage pupils to hold their head up and notice growth and change in their environment. Pupils will be encouraged to reach out and use their hands to explore natural materials and objects.

**Walking Teddy (the school dog):** Staff will support pupils to hold onto Teddy's lead, throw his ball, kick the ball, feed him treats, pour his water, reach out/lean forward to stroke him.

**Cocoon as a movement sequence:** Using the text from our sensory story 'cocoon' pupils will experience the story through a range of repeated movements. Movements will be adapted to each individual so that they are fully included in the experience and they are able to achieve their targets.

**Cocoon as a massage sequence:** Using familiar 'once upon a touch' massage strokes, pupils will experience our sensory story 'cocoon'. Pupils will be encouraged and supported to imitate actions, move and stretch to physically experience the massage strokes and they will also be given time to relax and reflect.

**The human life cycle:** Pupils will experience the human life cycle as a sensory experience. The opportunity to develop motor skills will be delivered by using the parachute to create movement, stimulating materials to reach up and touch and motivating music to move/dance to.

**Getting out and About (Community)** Pupils will continue to have opportunities to access leisure facilities and community events such as 'Keep on Moving', bowling, ice skating, dance and team games.

### Music

Pupils will explore 'change' through a range of music selected to suggest contrasting moods and emotions. They will focus on changes in tempo (fast and slow), dynamics (loud and quiet) and timbre (instrumental sounds) whilst exploring classical pieces, pop songs and music from a range of musicals. Pupils will develop their awareness of contrasting musical styles and be encouraged to express a preference towards their favourite pieces.

### Art

Art lessons will take place in the Art room with Mrs Lloydlangston. Pupils will follow the theme of 'growth and change' by concentrating on butterflies and insects. They will experience visual, tactile and audio stimulus to emulate butterflies and then make clear choices about colour, tools and paint application. They will create a range of experimental, 2 dimensional colour pieces before moving onto 3 dimensional, tactile work incorporating colour and sound. This work will be hung in class to 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 Butterfly Farm and the Botanical Gardens.

Pupils in year 13/14 will also visit a variety of post 19 provisions in order to support transition and life after school.

### Computing

Pupils will work in small groups and have access to the ICT room once a week. One to one sessions with a specialist TA will allow pupils to work on their individual targets. Pupils will also have access to a range of specialist equipment such as Eye Gaze, sound beam, touch screens, switches and environmental control across all areas of the curriculum in a range of different situations.

Pupils will have the opportunity to access different software and personalised 'Clicker 7' activities which will allow them to make choices and express preferences.

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 switches.

### Mental Wellbeing/PHSSE

'Reflection time' takes place at the end of each day so pupils can celebrate their achievements. 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.