



SEND Hub Newsletter



Big Top Sensory

Orchard Curriculum

Throughout the year we have been following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum in our Rainbow Class and the National Curriculum in Sunshine Class. We have used Bsquared as our assessment tool. We have been in the process of finding a new curriculum which suits our children's needs. Mrs Ryan and Miss Skidmore spent time researching and visiting other schools to find the most suitable curriculum for our children. Therefore, we have recently started to implement 'The Orchard Curriculum', which is having a positive impact on our SEND learners. We are excited to continue this journey in September.

In our SEND hubs this year, we have had so much fun and we have learnt so much! We have taken part in phonics, following the Little Wandle SEND programme, where we have listened to sounds in the environment and learnt some new phonemes. We have sung nursery rhymes, and explored lots of arts and crafts. We have been joining in with 'Attention Autism' sessions which involves 'bucket time', to help with our listening and attention skills. We have particularly enjoyed 'Dough Disco' to strengthen our fine motor skills! There has been lots of opportunities for us to listen to stories and use Aided Language Displays to communicate and we used Makaton to help us recite stories. We really enjoyed the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

Achievements and Learning

In our SEND hubs, we have achieved so much this year. Our listening and attention skills have improved massively! We can sit at the table for our group times and sit 1:1 with an adult for target work time. We are able to communicate with our peers and adults through vocalisations, speech, Aided Language Displays, symbols, Makaton, gestures and ACC books. We have become increasingly more independent by learning lots of life skills. Lots of us have learnt how to use the toilet, how to put our coats on, and how to use cutlery and some cooking skills.

Academically, lots of us have surpassed phase 1 phonics, whereby we learnt environmental sounds. We know some phase 2 sounds, and some of our Sunshine children have completed phase 3,4 and 5!

We do Sensory Circuits twice a week, which involves 3 steps. Alerting, these activities prepare our brains for learning. Organising, these activities are motor skills to help increase our focus. Then lastly calming, this helps our proprioception and the deep pressure activities mean we leave the session feeling calm and focused.

Visitors and Experiences

We have had lots of visitors and experiences which have enhanced our learning about the world around us.

- Every week we have been taught by a specialist music teacher, who teaches us how to play to a beat and how to use our voice to make different sounds.
- We have had a dentist, police officer, nurse, vicar and doctor visit us to show us how they help the community. We got to try on and use some of their equipment!
- 'The Animal Man' came to school and we got to hold and pet the animals. We learnt all about what they eat and their habitats.
- Big Top Musical Adventures came to provide us with a sensory music session. We had the best time by singing, playing instruments and dancing to the music.
- Happy Hooves, a mini mobile farm, came to school. We were able to pet the animals, which included a sheep, goat, donkeys and a llama.

After School Club

During the Spring term, we attended an after-school club in Sunshine Class. We learnt lots of life skills such as cooking, making drinks, sharing and turn taking. We played alongside our peers and practised play skills with an adult. The children thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. Thank you to Mrs Whitehouse for organising this for us.



Parent partnership



Animal man



Gross motor painting



Police visit

Parent partnership

This year our parents have helped with our learning. At Christmas and Easter parents joined us for a craft and sensory session. It was lovely to see you all there! Parents have also supported with reading at home and homework activities throughout the year.

Staff training

This year all of our staff in Rainbow and Sunshine Class have had specialist training. They have all completed 'Making Sense of Autism Level 1 training' and they have had bespoke training from the Speech and Language service which has included Aided Language Displays, Intensive interaction and Makaton.

Sensory Room

The sensory room in Rainbow Class, is one of our favourite areas of the school. It is a space we like to play in, and a space which we find calming to help regulate us. This year, we have enhanced this area by buying new resources. We now have a bubble machine, mirrored walls, a trampoline, a disco light, a tactile sensory wall, a climbing frame, a spinning disc sit on toy, and soft play climbing equipment.



Communication

In Rainbow and Sunshine Class the children use a range of communication methods to get their needs met and across to others.

This year all of the children have learnt to request using Aided Language Displays. The children are fabulous at this now and some of our children can even build sentences with this using 'I want...'.

We also use objects of reference and visuals throughout the day so that the children know what is happening and it makes it easier for our children to understand.

We have been so proud of our children's communication this year and the children are saying a lot more words and are using their communication methods to reduce their frustrations. Well done everyone!

What others say about our SEND hub

'The hub supports pupils who have complex communication needs through its nurturing and personalised approach to learning.' (Complex, Communication and Autism Advisory Teacher)

'We are happy he is not being held back due to SEN/sensory needs and being encouraged with self-care. He has visits to mainstream reception class to not isolate SEN children'. (Rainbow parent)

'I am happy with the help my children are receiving. I see a change in them, like vocabulary has improved and sentencing, he is more alert and likes his class members and teachers'. (Rainbow parent)

I think the Sunshine team are creative in how they assist ... in accessing the curriculum, and they are adapting their approach to assessing .. as his abilities broaden over time. We are thrilled with the work done to allow .. to 'speak' through his communication book. This has been a big success in allowing new areas of the curriculum to be opened. (Sunshine parent)