

Discovery Class – Autumn Term 1

Welcome to the Discovery Class!

We are excited to be welcoming you all to school and look forward to working with the children to discover their strengths and talents.

A warm welcome back to the children who were in our class last year. We are also excited to see what new things you will learn this year.

This half term, our theme is **We are learning**. We will be learning about friends and belonging to a class. We will be using interactive sessions, literacy sensory stories, topic ideas to help the children to understand being part of a class and how to communicate with others in the school. All children will have a range of opportunities for learning through play, group interaction sessions along with focused group or 1:1 work.

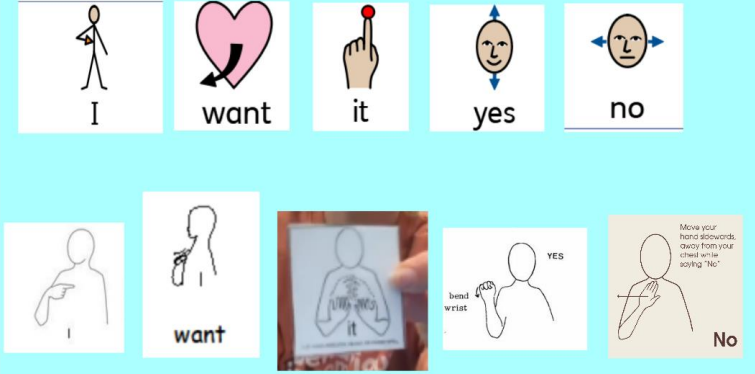
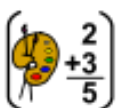
In the Discovery Class, children's individual EHCP Outcomes firstly dictate our learning. We will set small targets and share these with you, so that you can support your child to continue to practice and develop these skills at home.

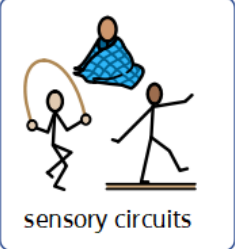
Inclusion will continue for the children it is appropriate for. We aim to ensure that children, who are able to, are accessing the mainstream environment as much as possible. Inclusion is planned on an individual basis dependent upon children's needs. Some of the sessions which are accessed by some of our children are as follows:

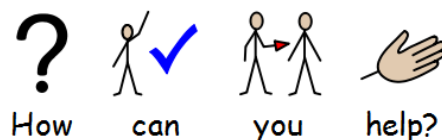
- Daily phonics
- Continuous Provision times in Reception classes
- Daily maths input
- Weekly PE sessions
- Daily lunch and playtimes in the main school hall and playground.

Whilst inclusion is happening, we are very busy in our Discovery Classroom. Here are some of the things we will be learning in each of our lessons.

 Signing In	Each morning we complete our signing in work. We are learning to: • Recognise our name • Mark make over our name • Write our first and last name from memory • Say short sentences about the day of the week and the weather
 Story / Literacy	This term, we will be exploring lots of sensory stories about being part of a class and friends. We will use attention autism techniques to engage the children and use a Makaton sign as a focus each week. We will be exploring nursery rhymes in the form of sensory stories. During these sessions, children will be working on developing their listening, attention and anticipation skills. Some children will complete some follow up work, which may include • Developing their visual discrimination skills – matching symbols to pictures • Developing their vocabulary • Developing shared attention • Developing their fine motor and mark making skills • Beginning to write words or short sentences

 Makaton	
 PE	In PE this term, we will focus on developing some key skills through a range of physical skills using apparatus. Children will be developing their skills in: • Starting and stopping • Moving around safely • Hand / eye co-ordination • Taking turns
 Attention Autism	Each week, we complete three sessions of Attention Autism and use this same technique within our story sessions. During these sessions children are working on developing the following skills: • Attention skills • Attending for increased periods and maintaining attention. • Broadening interests and motivators • Developing communication • Developing the ability to comment
 Maths	In maths, children will access a short whole class activity such as key vocabulary match, counting with objects, numerals or images. Children will then complete their maths work on an individual basis or within a very small group of 2-3 peers. Children will be working on their individual academic targets. All Children will be • Rote counting to 1 - 10 • Counting on from given numbers • Count objects accurately • Show numbers to 5 in different ways Some children will be • Using objects to create an amount to match to a number • Show an amount using different manipulatives • Use the vocabulary big and small A few children will be • Developing their understanding of bigger and smaller • To understand that two parts added together create an 'altogether' amount. Our teaching of Maths is individualised and is taught on a 1:1 basis or within a small ability group.
 Topic	Our Topic session this half term is based around the topic of We are learning. Children will have the opportunity to experience a number of activities in relation to being in school. Throughout each theme, children will be encouraged to explore the theme through Expressive Arts and Design and through our Knowledge and Understanding sessions, where we will support children to develop a greater understanding surrounding playing together and being a part of a group. Some of the activities we will do to help the children to develop their knowledge, understanding and experiences are: • Sensory activities involving photos and visuals • Using objects to role play playing together and being part of the class. • Using taught phrases to engage with others.

 mark making	In these sessions children will be involved in different activities related to their mark making ability. All children will be involved in a big moves intervention twice a week to encourage cross body movements and promote dexterity in their hands and core muscles. A few children will be using fingers, paint brushes, sticks in sand/glitter to make a series of marks which are needed prior to letter writing. Some children will be over writing letters in different handwriting sets beginning with l/i/t/j. These children will then move onto writing from a starting point to form the letters correctly.
 sensory circuits	Some children will complete a sensory circuit each morning to help them to regulate and be ready to learn. In this session we will complete three activities: - Alerting This activity prepares the child's body and mind for learning. - Organising This activity helps to improve focus and attention. They need to organise their body, plan their approach and do more than one thing at a time in sequential order. - Calming This activity is important to help your child to be ready for the day ahead.



- ❖ Please share information with us via Weduc regarding how your child has been at home and if there have been any issues or upset, this helps us to support them in school.
- ❖ Please continue to help us to support your child by **encouraging them to be more independent** at home – such as putting on and taking off their own shoes and coat and encouraging them to help with tidying away toys / resources when they are finished with them.
- ❖ Please **send in the £4 for your child to receive a range of snacks**. Having a desired snack for your child to request helps to motivate them to use their communication skills and PECs skills to make a request. If you wish to send in snacks for your child then these snacks cannot be refrigerated or need to be reheated or contain nuts.
- ❖ If your child needs to attend an appointment during the school day then we request that this is booked in the afternoons when at all possible. We request this as when the children's day is interrupted or their routine is changed; we find that many find this hard to cope with.

If changing the time is not possible then please inform us of the plan for the day of the appointment **in advance** so we can try to support your child with a visual timetable for that day.