

Birch Wood Area Special school

Class: The Nest

Curriculum Information

Where a love of learning grows



Birch Wood
School

Dear Parents and Carers,

After what sounds to have been a fantastic summer holidays for all the Nest students, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school and share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Autumn term in The Nest. I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term and I hope that the students will continue to develop their love of learning.

The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans.

As well as the information detailed below, students will have access to the Immersive room and soft play. Some students will take part in specialist programmes such as body awareness, story massage, Tacpac, dance massage, music therapy, rebound therapy, Lego therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language and Occupational therapy depending on their individual needs.

Termly Topic Theme		
Autumn Term 1	Around the world	Students will be investigating our topic Around the world. Students will engage with cross curriculum resources about the topic looking at different cultures, countries and flags.
Autumn Term 2	Mythical Creatures	Students will be investigating our topic Mythical Creatures. Students will engage with cross curriculum resources about the topic looking at different creatures and designing their own.
English		
Autumn Term 1	Creative writing - Journey	Students will develop their writing by studying the wordless book "The Journey". Students will use different learnt grammar and punctuation techniques to create a story to go with each page of the book.
Autumn Term 2	Spelling, punctuation and grammar - Monsters from space	Students will continue to develop their writing and language techniques through designing and describing their own monsters and mythical creatures.
Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Number Place value and Addition / Subtraction	Students will develop their understanding of number to be able to count and represent any given number from 1 - 1000 using different methods of representation. Students will also develop their understanding of the key principles of addition and subtraction.



Autumn Term 2	Number - Multiplication and division Measurement - Money	Students will continue to develop their mathematical understanding by counting in groups of numbers. Students will develop their coin recognition and be able to complete exchange with the correct coins.
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Animals including humans	Students will develop their understanding to be able to identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. They will also explore that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.
Autumn Term 2	Characteristics of materials	Students will explore, compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. Students will develop their understanding of materials by observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C)
STEM (Mad Science)		
Autumn Term 1	Animals including humans	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students will take part in a range of activities designed to inspire and develop innovation, skill and creativity based around our Science topic Animals including humans.
Autumn Term 2	Characteristics of materials	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students will take part in a range of activities designed to inspire and develop innovation, skill and creativity based around our Science topic characteristics of materials.
PSHEC		
Autumn Term 1	Ourselves	Students will learn about making choices, likes and dislikes, similarities and differences,
Autumn Term 2	People who help us	Students will learn about all the people that help us in school, at home and in the community. How can we help others?
Phonics and calligraphy		

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Curriculum Information

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Autumn Term 1 & 2	Set 1-3 sounds and a-z Letter formation	Students will develop their understanding of different sounds and how we blend these to create and spell different cvc and complex words. Students will develop their handwriting to write these letters and sounds learnt in phonics.
Cookery		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Breakfast	Students will use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare dishes which they could eat for breakfast. Students will develop their reading through following recipes and different cooking skills such as cutting and frying by preparing these dishes.
PE		
Autumn Term 1	Team building games	Students will develop their team work and problem solving skills by taking part in team building games such as the pipe game and blind folded activities
Autumn Term 2	Gymnastics	Students will develop their understanding Gymnastics whilst taking part in different activities such as vaulting and floor work.
Outdoor Education		
Autumn Term 1	Outdoor Craft	Students will develop their problem solving skills by using natural materials to make and build day to day objects.
Autumn Term 2	Map Reading and Navigation	Students will development their mathematical knowledge of direction and coordination's by learning how to map read.
PSHCE / Sensory regulation		
Autumn Term 1	Zones of regulation / Proprioceptive system	Using a cognitive behaviour approach, students will develop their ability to recognise when they are in different states called "zones". Students will also learn how to use strategies to stay in a zone or move from one to another. Students explore calming techniques, cognitive strategies, and sensory supports so they will have a toolbox of methods to use to move between zones. Students will develop an understanding of their own sensory system.
Autumn Term 2	Zones of regulation / vestibular system	
Community Visit		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Exploring my local community	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe whilst in the local community. Students will have the opportunity to experience the local

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		community of Melton whilst gaining practical experiences of how to self- regulate and be safe in the community.
Communication Games with Gail		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Friendship	Students will develop their understanding of the rules of friendship and social communication through playing different games.
Music		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Exploring Instruments / Digital Music	Students will explore and develop their ways of expression through music using different instruments and digital recording apps such as Incredibox and garage bang.
Humanities		
Autumn Term 1	Geography - It's a wonderful world	Students will explore different parts of the world and develop their locational knowledge to be able to name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. Students will also explore different parts of the world through different resources to be able to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. Students will also develop their understanding of geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country
Autumn Term 2	History - Castles and Knights	Students will explore different castles around the UK and the history around these different castles.
Art		
Autumn Term 1	Art from around the world	This half term students will develop their creativity by using different materials and art techniques to create pieces of work, which represent different parts of the world and cultures.
Autumn Term 2	Dragon Art	This half term we will be exploring how we can create pieces of art out of different material including clay and wood, whilst incorporating the theme of mythical creatures. Students will learn different craft techniques to make different mythical creatures and monsters.
Drama		
Autumn Term 1	Drama Games	Students will develop their communication skills through

Birch Wood Area Special school

Class: The Nest

Curriculum Information

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Autumn Term 2	Role Play	exploring different drama techniques.
Group Reading		
Autumn term 1 & 2	Developing a love of reading	Students will engage with different daily stories to develop a love of reading and develop curiosity and imagination.
Hydro therapy pool		
Autumn term 1 & 2	Swimming	Your child will take part in weekly swimming sessions. These sessions will focus on water confidence, water safety, sensory regulation, following self-care routines and peer interactions. Students will also have the opportunity to work toward their swimming badges.

Things that you could do at home:

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Kinteract.

Literacy: read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.

Maths: Encourage your child to develop their number formation and counting in groups of numbers at home.

PSHEC: Encourage your child to identify 3 positives about their week.

Cookery: Include your child in cooking activities that they can take part in. Ask them to collect different ingredients during a food shop or from the cupboards at home. Breakfast meal recipes will be uploaded to Kinteract for your child to access at home.

PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities). Take your child swimming if you can as well.

Preparation for Adulthood: Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces.

I am pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Thank you and I look forward to another exciting term!

Poppy Marriott
The Nest Class Teacher