



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term Newsletter for The Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a memorable summer for all.

After a fantastic first few days, I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you all for making me feel so welcome in The Penguins. They are all amazing young people and I am incredibly proud to be their Class Teacher. I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the autumn term. I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term and getting to know you all even better.

The curriculum follows the Aspire and Independence pathways with a large focus on individual therapeutic sessions, which aims to achieve each student’s personal best, whilst also prioritising individualised targets linked to their mental health and wellbeing within Educational Health Care Plans.

As well as the information detailed below, which gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills, students will have access to the fantastic recently completed soft play. Some students will take part in specialist programmes such as story massage, Tacpac, dance massage, music therapy, rebound therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language, Occupational therapy and outside agency involvement according to their individual needs.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Number	Students will record numbers and count out concrete objects. Students will begin to recognise two digit numbers and identify more/less. We will create number sequences and use concrete objects to show our understanding.
Autumn Term 2	Number	Students will record numbers and count out concrete objects. Students will begin to recognise two digit numbers and identify more/less. We will create number sequences and use concrete objects to show our understanding.
English		
Autumn Term 1	Harvest for the World	Letter formation and building a sentence. Students will focus on character description from our Mudpuddle Farm text by Michael Morporgo.
Autumn Term 2	The Show Must Go On!	Letter formation and building a sentence. Learning and sequencing Musical stories and songs for special events.
Reading		
Autumn Term 2	It’s Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions each week

Autumn Term 1	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions each week
PSHCE		
Autumn Term 1	Being Safe online	Developing our understanding of how we use the internet and the "rules" we should know when we are online or gaming.
Autumn Term 2	Me, Myself and I	Learning about the qualities and characteristics we share and those that are individual to us. Students will begin to explore and share their preferences and ideas.
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Animal Habitats	Understanding the various natural habitats of different animal groups.
Autumn Term 2	Growing and changing	Supporting our Me, Myself and I topic, we will begin to learn about the different stages of a human life cycle.
Topic		
Autumn Term 1	Harvest for the World	Students will learn about farming and how the weather helps the crops grow. We will learn more about the animals that live on the farm and the produce we get from them.
Autumn Term 2	The Show Must Go on!	Exploring some of the classic children's musicals of our time. Looking at different types of music and how it can make us feel.
P.E		
Autumn Term 1	Teamwork	Students will begin the term using a variety of different learning activities, some sport specific to develop their teamwork and communication skills. Students will then continue to further develop in these areas, alongside improving their competence in Sport Specific skills
Autumn Term 2	Gymnastics and Invasion Games	Students will specifically focus on the sport of Gymnastics and also complete a unit on a chosen invasion games. Students will be aiming to develop their sense of challenge, physical competence, communication and creativity within these units.



Computing		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Being safe online	Students will work on this alongside their PSHCE topic. We will also learn the names and purpose of specific pieces of basic IT equipment.
Art		
Autumn Term 1	Printing	Students will be learning to print using animal patterns and a variety of textures. The theme is Harvest for the World and we will observe shapes and nature's colours in our work.
Autumn Term 2	Celebrations	Students will express their understanding of special events and celebrations by creating images using a variety of topic related materials.
Cooking		
Autumn Term 1	Taste testing Food groups Practical sessions Health and Safety	Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes. Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment. How do we keep ourselves safe?
Autumn Term 2	Taste testing Food groups Practical sessions Health and Safety	Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes.. Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment. How do we keep ourselves safe?
Music		
During this term we will be following the Electric Umbrella Live shows for Schools programme. The Live show is streamed every Wednesday afternoon and you can watch the show online at https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk		
Interventions		
Autumn Term 1	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.

Autumn Term 2	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
	Humanities	
Autumn Term 1	Where we live!	Learners will explore the town we come to school in and the other areas that some students live in.
Autumn Term 2	Celebrations	Learners will explore special events and celebrations that take place at this time of year.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Counting songs, number formation and identification

Literacy: Regular reading and discussing story characters – identify stand out features and enjoy sharing a book

Preparation for Adulthood: Discuss how we grow as we get older.

See your child's individual EHCP outcomes and participate in everyday activities that encourage good health, communication, independence and social skills.

Motor skills – writing – letter formation, colouring or cutting with scissors develops fine motor skills.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on goddardl@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

We are all looking forward to another exciting school year.

Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Bren, Carrie and Kate