



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Curriculum Newsletter for The Robins. We hope that you have all had a great summer holiday and that the students are now feeling refreshed and full of energy to enjoy and learn during our first term in Key Stage 2. We are excited to share with you the topics that we will be exploring this term. We will continue to use Kinteract as our method of recording observations of your child as they work towards their EHCP outcomes. It is a great opportunity to observe your child's progress and comment on it.

Our topics in the Autumn term will be: **Farm** for Autumn 1 and **Musical Theatre** for Autumn 2.

Autumn 1	Farm We will be learning, exploring and experiencing vocabulary about farm and its life e.g. animals, harvest, crops, fruits, vegetables etc. We will focus on a range of stories e.g. Squash and Squeeze by R. Stephenson or Farmer Duck by M. Waddell. In Art we will make own fruit and vegetables collage and go on a Farm Scavenger hunt.
Autumn 2	Musical Theatre In our final weeks before Christmas we will concentrate on music, role play and performing for our Christmas production. Our focus will be on exploring different songs combined with words, actions and dance. Sessions will involve dressing up, props to promote students' self-esteem and confidence. We will also design parts of our costumes too!

Our class will be following the Independence Curriculum which covers five areas of learning (listed in the table below). To balance the needs of each of our students, the curriculum involves sensory sessions, therapies and specialist programmes such as Sensory Story, Dance massage, Tac Pac or Attention Bucket. The Independence Curriculum offers a similar level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths and science.

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics
The focus will be on descriptive language and vocabulary. We will be teaching two specific literacy lessons per week and daily phonics with a cross curricular approach. In Autumn 1 the theme is 'Farm' . Students will be given the opportunity to learn and explore a lot about farm, harvest, fruits and vegetables. This will be supported by Makaton signing and the use of communication skills (describe, justify, sequence) to learn about different aspects of farm. We will concentrate on books such as 'A Squash and a Squeeze' or 'Farmer Duck' and stories related to it. Students will explore crops and learn about the Harvest festival. They will continue to develop their knowledge to identify and describe main characters and create sequence of events in the story and use the information to discuss or justify their ideas and opinions with their peers in groups.

My Thinking - Maths and Science

Maths- We will be concentrating on **Number** through some of the following activities e.g. counting to 5, 10, 20; read, write, order and compare numbers up to 5, 10, 20; add two numbers with a total of up to 5, 10, 20; completing number lines. Students will learn mathematical concepts individually and in small groups. They will take part in a range of mini projects and tasks to share their ideas.

Science- Students will take part in activities exploring and developing their knowledge about **Teeth and eating**. They will use their senses to explore a range of foods and having their teeth cleaned. They will also learn that some foods are good for teeth and others may damage teeth. They will begin to understand the role of teeth in eating. All will have an opportunity to brush their teeth.

My Movement - PE

PE will be taught by PE teacher, James Collington in weekly sessions which will focus on various activities to support the learning and development of each student's gross motor skills such as agility, balance, co-ordination. Students will take part in small group and individual obstacle course activities. Sessions are linked to students EHCP's, particularly Physical and sensory needs and will relate to their current outcomes that students are working on.

Myself - PSHE

The topic this term is ***Celebrating myself- it's good to be me***. During the weekly sessions students will be learning a variety of aspects related to how to be safe when gaming e.g. Keeping safe online, such as using passwords or having adult help to access the internet. We will also be learning about keeping safe near roads, rail, water, building sites and around fireworks. Finally, we will be learning about what we should do in an emergency, including basic emergency first aid.

My Enrichment

Music, Dance massage, Relaxation- The class will be taking part in various 'warm up' games during our Music, Dance, Yoga and Mindfulness lessons; where they will continue to build and develop their confidence of movement, singing in front of an audience and answering fun questions in front of their peers. We will participate in work on pitch, tempo and instrument recognition during our Music lessons. Pupils will be focus as they can only use their ears as they take part in Music bingo activities.

In **Cooking**, students will be following recipes and instructions, identifying different ingredients, learning new cooking methods. They will begin to take part in cookery lessons that will be making a snack and simple meals to eat. The lessons will introduce life skills, creating snacks and straight forward meals which can be easy and accessible for all students to create.

Things you could do at home

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

My thinking: use aspects of number recognition with your child throughout the day e.g. when they are preparing for family meal indoors (e.g. how many forks or spoons is needed).

Myself: Talk about any changes in routine that may be happening in their lives (different class, different school, change of weekend routine etc...)

Computing: Play simple directional games together ("move forwards two steps, move left three steps...")

Cookery: Include your child in cooking activities that they can take part in, ask them to collect different ingredients and encourage to chop, cut, stir or mix them with your support.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Robins
Autumn 2023
Curriculum Newsletter



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

Thank you and we all look forward to an exciting half term!

Maria Zakrzewska

The Robins Class Teacher