

Birch Wood Area Special school
Curriculum Newsletter
Class The Treehouse
Term Autumn 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to the Treehouse!

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Autumn term in The Treehouse. We are looking forward to yet another exciting and busy term as we support your child in continuing to develop their love of learning whilst making fantastic progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on reading and phonics. The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their full potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). We will also consistently be referring back to 'Zones of Regulation' to help support your child in developing their communication skills and self-regulation. In addition to this, depending on individual needs, some students in our class may take part in specialist programmes such as music therapy, rebound therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language sessions.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Number	Students will be looking at the place value of numbers whilst looking at the 4 operations of maths (+, -, ÷ and ×). They will begin by securing their skills of counting, using number lines and writing numbers in words. They will then go on to solving simple word problems, moving on to using these acquired problem solving skills to examine the inverse of sums. Students will also continue to use and further develop their skills of multiplication tables throughout the term. During lessons throughout the term, students will have the opportunity to work as a group on short maths based online games, such as 'Hit the Button', use big maths by chalking on pavements, and whiteboards.
Autumn Term 2	Enterprise	Using their knowledge and skills of number from the first half of the term, students will continue to develop learning around sums and problem solving facilitated by The Rickshaw Challenge. Students will be learning to count different sums of money, calculate change needed after a transaction, and calculate possible sums of money made whilst looking at real life scenarios and examples. Students will also be showing these calculations visually through money raised pictograms and tables.
English		
Autumn Term 1	Creative and Narrative Writing Skills	English lessons will be focused on character development and describing a variety of scenes from Ancient Egypt, through discussing descriptive texts, both from fiction and non-fiction. Students will be introduced to a wide range of adjectives and given short examples to read. This will give students greater scope to create their own more detailed sentences, along with developing their comprehension skills. They will begin gathering information and then have the opportunity to create their own characters and scenes to write their own more extended imaginative descriptions.
Autumn Term 2	Drama	Students will be exposed to a rich variety of spoken text with a focus on discussing the meaning of them and the skills required to successfully read aloud. Students will be supported in reading through short monologues and scripts, and then as Christmas approaches, be given the opportunity to creatively write their own and perform them.
Reading		
Autumn Term 1	Developing a love of reading	Throughout the whole year in the Treehouse, students will engage with different daily stories to develop a love of reading and develop curiosity and imagination. During our daily morning routine students will be reading their

Autumn Term 2		appropriately banded books (both fiction and non-fiction) to staff members. During our daily afternoon routine students will have the opportunity to engage in some quiet reading. At the end of day students will also be able to enjoy some short whole class reading sessions, to help support their transitions leaving school.
Phonics and Comprehension		
Autumn Term 1	Set 1-3 sounds and phonics within sentences	During these sessions, students will be working at their own pace depending on their level of learning, with some learning to recognise and blend set 2 and 3 Read, Write, Inc phonic sounds. For others, they may be focusing on their comprehension skills, reading a variety of texts completely independently and then being asked questions about it. Others will be accessing the online package Accelerated Reader where they will be given a variety of comprehension style activities to complete.
Autumn Term 2		
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Cells and Movement	Students will be introduced to the concept of a cell being like a single building block to build tissues and organs with. Students will then be learning about the structure of simple animal and plant cells, with the opportunity to use a light microscope. Students will then be introduced to the notion of using scientific models and creating their own. The later part of the half term will focus on the structure and function of the human skeleton, muscles and joints. Students will be introduced to the scientific names of bones, along with the ball and socket, hinge and pivot.
Autumn Term 2	Energy Costs & Energy Transfer	Students will be examining the different types of energy and what they are used for. They will be discussing how energy is categorised into renewable and non-renewable along with the pros and cons of both. Students will learn about how energy costs in units along with how energy can be neither made or destroyed, only transferred, for example: solar energy into electrical to light.
PSHE		
Autumn Term 1	Living in the Wider World	During PSHE lesson, students will be discussing internet safety, with a focus on how to be safe when gaming, keeping safe online, understanding that people can be influenced online and using passwords or having adult help to access the internet. The later lessons will involve safety, but with a focus on keeping safe near roads, rail, water, building sites and around fireworks. Along with what to do in an emergency.
Autumn Term 2	Relationships and Human Values	Students will be discussing citizenship, what makes a good citizen, along with where and what is Great Britain Students will go on to learn about the British values of democracy and how laws are made. This will include learning about the local council and how they can influence positive change using our school student council.
Humanities		
Autumn Term 1	History – Ancient Egypt	Students will be learning about ancient Egypt. This will include who the ancient Egyptians were, what life was like in ancient Egypt, what Egyptian

		Mummies are, and who Tutankhamun was and his significance to Egyptian society. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss Egyptian pyramids and how they were linked to Egyptian gods.
Autumn Term 2	RE – Hinduism and Christianity	Students will be reminded of the six largest world religions; Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Attention will be drawn to how all religions have festivals, with a focus on Hinduism and Christianity. This will coincide with Hindu festival of Diwali and the Christian festival of Christmas. Students will be learning about the stories underpinning these two festivals and the different ways in which people around the world celebrate them.
ICT		
Autumn Term 1	Microsoft Excel	To begin with students will be consolidating their previous learning on Excel, using the spreadsheet grid system, formatting font, colours, text alignment, and using the sum of function to find a total or average for a set of data. Students will be continuing to use the term 'data', and learning how to create a pie chart and bar graph. They will then be given the opportunity to format them, including giving them appropriate titles, keys and labels.
Autumn Term 2	Microsoft Consolidation	Following on from Autumn Term 1, Students will be using the Microsoft packages Word, PowerPoint and Excel concurrently, developing their understanding of what each software program is best used for and pasting between them. They will then be working on a project about their own special interest, where they will present a final presentation which will include graphs, tables, animation and creatively formatted text.
PE		
Autumn Term 1	Team Building	Teaching will focus on fundamental movements and communication skills with students having the opportunity to play team games and develop their skills in negotiating space, embedding rules and developing communication for team games.
Autumn Term 2	Functional Movement (Gymnastics)	Students will be having gymnastic sessions, that will include developing elements of floor or vaulting skills depending on needs and ability of group. Focus will be given to strength, balance and co-ordination skills, whilst still negotiating sharing space with peers and encouraging each other to do their best
Games with Gail		
Autumn Term 1 and Autumn Term 2	Communication Games	Throughout the academic year students will continue to develop their understanding of the rules of friendship and social communication through playing different games. Students will begin to discuss how to overcome perceived problems, such as who is winning and turn taking, whilst having the opportunity to practice their skills of self-regulation in a supportive environment.
Cookery		
Autumn Term 1	Hygiene and Safety	During weekly sessions Students will be discussing and practicing good basic food hygiene skills along with good safety practices whilst accessing the kitchen and following simple recipes.
Autumn Term 2	Tastes	Whilst continuing to develop the skills from Autumn Term 1, students will be introduced to a new variety of tastes and encouraged to try new flavours, with a focus on cooking with a wide range of different ingredients.

Art		
Autumn Term 1	Egyptian Inspired Art	Using the Egyptian theme for inspiration students will be creating their own Pharaoh crowns from collaged material, along with hieroglyphic name plaques. Students will then go on to have the opportunity to design and make their own sculptural pyramids and Egyptian style masks.
Autumn Term 2	Light and Dark within Art	Students will continue to be encouraged to use their imagination and be creative, with a focus on examining and experimenting with light, dark and shadows. Whilst creating their own work, students will be asked to discuss how and why they have produced the work they have, and present their creations to peers in a celebratory manner.
Community Visit		
Community Visit	For the first part of the term, students will be discussing in detail Zones of regulation, (<u>Green</u> – happy, calm focused, ready to learn, <u>Red</u> – Angry, out of control, frustrated, <u>Yellow</u> – nervous, silly, confused, <u>Blue</u> – sad, tired, bored Please see Kinteract for the full list used in class). Students will be involved in activities such as playing games, drawing and matching pictures to recognise these different emotions, then moving on to discuss when they may feel these emotion as and what activities they can do to help themselves positively and safely regulate their emotions. This will happen whilst discussing the need to voice and be supported to regulate emotions when out in the community. Later in the term, students will have the opportunity to go out on visits to curriculum linked attractions, along with activities which will support their preparation for adulthood. Further information about when trips will be given closer to the time.	

Possible Things 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 multiplication skills using practical examples at home, such as whilst buying multiple items when out food shopping.

PSHEC: Encourage your child to identify at least 1 positive thing that they have experienced at the end of every day. Model this by sharing your own positive thing and describe how it made you feel and why.

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, discuss different tastes over meal times.

PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities).

Preparation for Adulthood: Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces. Discuss the importance of these activities and how they all take practice.

We will be very happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child, our curriculum and anything else you may wish to know as we head into the new academic year 2023-24!

Joanna McKay

Hannah Jackson

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Mon – Tues - Wed)

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Thurs – Friday)