



Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Eagles Class Team I would like to welcome you the new school year. Please find below a summary of the topics and units we hope to be working on this term. At the bottom of this letter, there are ideas that you could share with your child at home. Due to high demand at Waterfield Leisure Centre we plan to swim on alternate Friday mornings in the spring term (January to March 2023 for seven sessions). Children who have hydrotherapy needs stated on their EHCP will have access to the hydrotherapy pool once a week. We are looking into a possible horse riding slot but this has not yet been confirmed. I'll keep you updated during the term.

Our themes this term will be: Journeys and Performance

<p>Autumn Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Journeys</p> <p>We will explore 'the Journeys' theme through various subjects for example: in literacy/my communication – the mysterious cross-Atlantic journey in 'James and the Giant Peach', in Geography/my thinking we will recall the summer holidays and think about Tourism and Travel. We will develop our knowledge & understanding of the world in our Forces and Movement topic alongside programming control toys in ICT. Our enrichment lessons will include sowing seeds, making fruit based recipes and finding out about/experiencing different modes of transport. We will also develop our literacy, number and physical skills. We will work together to develop a class identity and encourage the development of social interaction and communication skills.</p>
<p>Autumn Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Performance</p> <p>We will continue to build on our class community and sense of belonging during our performance themed work. This will incorporate music, movement and drama activities. Our non-fiction work will include mini-beasts projects with presentations. Science based food and digestion with related fun activities. We will explore soldiers and battles in our history topic. We will also work towards our class performance for the Christmas show (theme to be decided).</p>

Our class are following a combination of Engagement and Independence. The engagement pathway is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. The five key areas of the Engagement Curriculum are "My Communication", "My Thinking", "My Movement", "Myself" and "My Enrichment". The Independence Curriculum offers a similar level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths and science.

<p style="text-align: center;">My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics</p>
<p>This area of the curriculum focuses on developing the ability of our pupils to be able to communicate, interact and to make their needs known. Our classroom is a total communication environment where we use Makaton signing, body signing, and personalised objects of reference, communication switches and photos/symbols to help make choices. We carry out communication sessions on a daily basis such as intensive interaction, story massage, sensory stories, sensory drama, Tac-Pac, Dance Massage, Write Dance and communication games. Pupils on the independence pathway will experience a multi-sensory approach to literacy including the use of movement, music, songs and drama. Pupils will work on letter recognition and formation, cursive writing (where appropriate), alphabet skills, spelling, reading, grammar, speaking and listening skills according to their ability and SEN. Pupils will continue to develop their sentence and early story writing skills.</p>

My Thinking - Maths and Science

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing our pupils' attention and anticipation skills and awareness of cause and effect in their environment. It also promotes problem solving skills and making choices. For pupils on the engagement pathway sessions within class include Sensology (Hello Senses), sensory cooking, switch toy work, control device sessions, cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room. In Maths we will be working on number recognition, counting, sequences, direction and preposition in the first half of the term. In Autumn two we will focus on measuring length, 2D shape and money. This will link in with mini-enterprise making and selling small Christmas gifts. In Science we will find out about forces and movement, followed by Food and Digestion.

My Movement - PE

Movement is a huge part of our curriculum. On a daily basis we follow our pupil's physiotherapy and movement programmes, incorporating these into daily activities. Some children have a hydrotherapy programme and will access the hydro pool. We also have weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each child on our trampoline with a trained therapist. Every Monday morning we have a session in the hall with our PE instructor Connie, where we will work on pupil's MATP (motor activity training programme) targets. These targets focus on developing pupil's movement needs.

Myself – PSHE, RSE & RE

This area of the curriculum focuses on empowering our pupils, giving them every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and independence. We incorporate opportunities to work on independence skills throughout the school day in areas such as eating and drinking, dressing and personal care needs e.g. toileting and washing. This will look different for each pupil, but the goal is to give every opportunity to increase independence and to make choices about their daily routines. Part of this curriculum also focuses on pupils exploring their own preferences and having a greater awareness of their own bodies and the space around them.

As a part of our RSE curriculum, we will be creating sensory sessions based on the themes of personal care, friendships and relationships and body awareness. Sensory based sessions will take into account the pupils sensory needs including any known hyper or hypo sensitivity. We also seek to give pupils greater independence with their personal care, from pupils choosing who carries out their personal care to independent toileting.

My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies, for example rebound therapy, music therapy, hydrotherapy (EHCP dependent) and activities. We will take part in enrichment activities including rehearsing for assemblies, the Christmas show, making small Christmas gifts, mini enterprise, cooking and gardening. We hope to go on short local journeys using different transport methods (tbc). More information to follow regarding horse riding sessions; the sixth form are having their turn this year but we will do our best to find an additional slot for key stage 3.

Things you could do at home

My Communication:

- **Enjoy sharing a wide range of books and reading material with your child**
- **Provide opportunities to practice mark making, letter formation, letter sounds and spellings.**
- **Encourage your child to communicate as fully as possible even if you instinctively know what they are trying to say or request.**

My thinking:

- **Explore push, pulls and turns when out and about e.g. at a local park, leisure centre or around the home.**
- **Experience a variety of foods and, if appropriate, the food groups and where food might come from.**

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on dayej@birchwoodschool.co.uk I am happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child. I am excited to work in partnership with you to ensure your child can achieve their best potential.

Janet Daye
The Eagles Class Teacher