



September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back in autumn term in Hummingbirds! We hope that all our students feel 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 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 and other curriculum opportunities. It is a great opportunity to observe your child's progress and comment on it.

Our class will be following Independence Curriculum or the Engagement Curriculum, with our students placed on either pathway, whilst still benefiting from the overlaps of both. Students will work on subject specific learning or broader learning intentions depending on the pathways they are focusing on. We will have access to therapies and specialist areas such as Library, Immersive room, Dark room or newly build Soft Play area (to be completed soon). Students will take part in specialist programmes such as story massage, Tac Pac, dance massage, music therapy and hydrotherapy according to their needs. Communication, Literacy and Maths are taught as discreet subjects in the morning alongside personalised learning goals related to EHCP's under the headings 'My Communication' and 'My Thinking'.

Our themes this term will be:

	<b>During these themes pupils will;</b>
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<p><b>These Are a Few of My Favourite Things</b></p> <p>We will be exploring all the things the Hummingbirds enjoy! It will be an opportunity for students to show us there likes and dislikes as well as explore new things and old favourite. As part of our theme we will explore a Sensory Story which features our Hummingbird mascot, Flit sharing with us all of his favourite things. We will be looking at the human body and labelling areas of the body through touch, writing, drawing and exploring. We will have the opportunity to explore our senses, testing out what we like and dislike through touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing. As part of our theme, we will take part in dance massage once a week and we will be looking to observe students' reaction to our stimulus.</p>
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	<p><b>It's Just Another Winter's Tale</b></p> <p>We will be celebrating traditional tales such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Gingerbread Man' and exploring activities related to our story such as messy play, role play and sequencing our stories. We will explore seasonal changes and plants as we enter winter as well as discovering the story of Christmas. We will celebrate Christmas and explore design as we make lots of Christmas crafts. Through our music sessions such as write dance and dance massage we will be exploring music related to winter and Christmas.</p>

### My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

**Communication** We encourage students to communicate through their preferred method, which could include pictures, communication devices, spoken sounds and words and Makaton. We use a 'Total Communication' approach, which means that all communication is valued and recognised. Students are given opportunities to make choices and express preferences frequently. All students will take part in small group or individual communication sessions as indicated in their education and health care plans.

**Early Reading and Phonics** All students engage with phonics at the appropriate phase. Activities include listening to sounds, making sounds, differentiating sounds, learning phase one letter sounds and some students are beginning to blend and segment, whilst reading books with specific sounds linked to their phase. When ready, students will begin to read and write CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words using their phonetic (sounds) knowledge. Reading is incorporated in to lots of sessions including, cooking, sensory story and theme, through the use of symbols and objects to support pupils to read their environment as well as words. We encourage reading for pleasure and always have a range of books on offer, sometimes linked to our afternoon theme. Storytelling is built into the day and is linked with our theme, engaging our senses and our imagination.

**Mark Making and Writing** We will be exploring mark making and early writing in response to pictures, songs and stories. Students will have opportunities to develop the motor skills needed to make marks and to write. Once students have mastered mark making we will support children to give meaning to their marks. Weekly, we will do Write Dance, which includes large gross motor movements to music. Some students will work on letter formation, spelling and grammar in 1:1 or paired sessions.

### My Thinking - Maths and Science

**The KS1** environment provides opportunities for students to problem solve, compare, sort and explore mathematical skills such as number, shape, space and measure. These are facilitated throughout the week through a combination of pupil led play, small groups and 1:1 sessions led by an adult.

**Number** includes counting and early calculations. We will work on recognition of numbers up to 10, but extending where we need to, as well as experiencing quantity and the concepts of 'more' and 'less' in a tactile way.

**Shape and Space:** Students will explore 2D shapes and 3D shapes.

**Science** is explored through weekly themes We encourage a tactile approach to science, using a range of sensory resources reflecting the theme. Throughout the year there are themes directly based on a KS1 Science topic. This term we will be focusing on animals including humans and identifying and labelling parts of the human body through our theme. We will also begin to explore everyday materials and sorting them according to physical properties. In Autumn 2 we will be focusing on seasonal changes as we enter winter including identifying plants.

### My Movement - PE

**Daily Provision:** By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, we support students to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.

Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy. In our daily set up, we offer repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools.

**PE** 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 develop on these areas together with improving their competence in sport specific skills into the Autumn 2 term, where they 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.

**Swimming:** All students in KS1 have opportunities to swim, either in the Hydrotherapy pool here either at Grange Drive, or at Water field Leisure Centre in Melton, where students work towards their Otter swimming badges.



### Myself –RSE

**Daily Provision:** Self -regulation is an ongoing focus. We facilitate this through daily interactions and building positive relationship, using co-regulation strategies that suit pupil’s needs, providing sensory diets for pupils based on their initial sensory assessment and encouraging pupils to engage with sensory or chosen activities that help them to self-regulate. We encourage emotional literacy through emotion cards and the ‘Chirpy Board’ system.

**RSE:** Some students will take part in small group or paired activities looking at the areas of ‘Self Awareness’ and ‘Baby to Adult’. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will explore ‘Taking Care of Ourselves’ and ‘Healthy Eating’.

### My Enrichment

Throughout the curriculum, we want to promote resilience, kindness and creativity. This could be through stories and themes, assembly, engagement with community groups as well as taking part in larger fundraising and charity events. Pupils develop a sense of belonging through visits and events within the wider school as well as community trips and visits linked to themes or for weekly swimming. Where possible, we arrange for community members to visit school and talk to us about theme related topics. We use arts to encourage self - expression and appreciation of the world around us.

**Cookery:** Students 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. We will be following recipes and instructions, identifying different ingredients, learning new cooking methods.

### Things you could do at home

**My Communication:** Ask questions using prompts, such as why, where, which, who, when how? Play games such as “I spy” to help build vocabulary. Engage students in songs and rhymes and establish shared attention. Read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.

**My Thinking:** Encourage problem solving through everyday activities, count everyday objects while playing, look for shapes around the house, compare big and small objects

**Independence:** Wherever possible, allow students time to put on clothes, coats and shoes. Help to prepare food, make choices and engage with own care routines such as brushing teeth and washing.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me at [massona@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:massona@birchwoodschoo.co.uk)  
I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

The Hummingbirds Team and myself are very much looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing the progress all of our students make.

Kind regards,

Anneka