



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a happy new year and to welcome you to Spring Term 2023. We are excited to move forward into this New Year. Please find below a summary of the topics and units we will be working on this term. At the bottom of this letter, there are ideas that you could share with your child at home. Our themes this term will be: 'Past and Present' and Light.

<p><b>Spring Term 1</b></p>	<p><b>The 1950s and Victorian eras.</b>          Our theme will revolve around our history topic and our main literacy text: Tom's Midnight Garden'. We will explore the different eras represented in the book alongside the story, characters and locations. We hope to visit an English Country Home (when it re-opens in March) and to explore, in a multisensory way, life in Victorian times. We will learn about different materials; where they come from and what they are useful for.</p>
<p><b>Spring Term 2</b></p>	<p><b>Light</b>          In the second half of the Spring term we will continue to complete our past and present theme whilst learning about the introduction of electricity into homes towards the end of the Victorian era. Our Science topic will focus on safety and hands on activity exploring circuits and its uses. Our themes will also influence our brief look at poetry and art. In Geography we will continue to build on basic map, location and direction skills alongside the influence of the past on our present. This will include a look at invader and settlers.</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><b>My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics</b></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>
<p><b>My Thinking - Maths and Science</b></p>
<p>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 continue to work on number recognition, counting and 2D shapes along with simple fractions in preparation for our time topic. In the second half of the term we will find out about 3D shapes, along with</p>

measuring mass and volume. Data collection, presentation and interpretation will be incorporated into ICT along with basic skills.

### **My Movement - PE**

Movement is a big 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 are hoping to have a weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each child on our trampoline but are currently without a trained therapist. Every Monday morning we have a session in the hall with our PE instructor, 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 beginning toilet training to independent toilet visits.

### **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, cooking, dressing up and themed days. We hope to go on a history related visit in the Spring term. We also plan to visit Water field Leisure Centre on alternate Friday mornings in the Spring term. We are currently looking into a possible horse-riding sessions in the summer term if the RDA can accommodate an extra session on Thursday late morning.

### **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.**
- **Comment on what's going on around your child and encourage the use of additional words in their sentences. Talk about what things are made of and states of matter e.g. solids, liquids and gases.**

#### **My thinking:**

- **Think about ways to note the passage of time in everyday life including now and next, times of the day, significant events in the week and months ahead**
- **Electrical safety in the home, items that use electricity through batteries or mains power.**
- **Share photographs from the past, sequence photographs together**

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on [dayej@birchwoodschool.co.uk](mailto: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