



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term Newsletter to the Robins. As always, we are delighted to share with you the topics we will be learning about in the spring term.

As we begin a new year and a new term, we welcome Grace as an additional teacher to our class team. She will be running small group sessions. We know that Grace's experience from Birch Wood Vale would strengthen the learning and provide a significant support for our students.

We are continuing with the Independence Curriculum pathway which covers five areas of learning: 'My Communication', 'My Thinking', 'My Movement', 'Myself' and 'My Enrichment' and 'My world' with access to therapies and specialist programmes such as Write dance, Sensory Story, Tac Pack, Dance Massage, Music Therapy etc.

My communication: English / Literacy/ Phonics/Sensory phonics/Sensory story/Story massage/Write dance/Dough disco/ Attention Autism

Descriptive language and vocabulary

Our theme this Spring is '**Watching the Garden grow**'. As part of the topic our students will be given the opportunity to learn about garden vocabulary, Makaton signing and use their communication skills (describe, justify, sequence) about different aspects of gardening or planting. We will read different stories ('Jack and the beanstalk') from a range of books such as 'Eddie's Garden and how to make things grow' or 'The story of Sappy seed'. They will 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/ Numeracy/Computing/ Science

Maths/ Numeracy	Number recognition	We will be concentrating on <b>Shape and Geometry</b> through some of the following activities e.g. Identify 3D shapes and their properties, edges, vertices and faces; identify 2D shapes on 3D surface; 2D and 3D shapes link to everyday shapes. 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.
Computing	Word processing	Students will have activities differentiated according to their needs, some will be supported to use laptops to word process. They will word process changing the font and size of lettering when answering questions, creating a simple chart or checklist whilst some young people may be using technology to navigate their surroundings.
Science	Plants	Students will take part in activities exploring and developing their knowledge about plants, observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow (growing chart across weeks); find out what plants need to grow e.g. water, light and right temperature to grow and stay healthy. They will be given different opportunities and activities inside and outdoors in which they



		will have to use their knowledge and skills in practice e.g. to plant a seed and look after to make sure it does grow.
<b>My movement/Enrichment</b>		
Music/Drama/	Role Play/ Performance	The class will be taking part in various 'warm up' games during our Relaxation sessions and Sensory 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.
PE/ Swimming/ Hydro	Ball skills, fine motor skills, Gymnastics, balancing, Individual swimming targets.	PE will be taught once a week by PE teacher, James Collington. Sessions will focus on various activities to support the learning and development of each student's gross motor skills. Swimming will be taught once a week (alternated every other half-term) where it will be introducing safety around the pool. We will then move onto basic stroke techniques, depending on their current swimming ability.
<b>Myself</b>		
PSHE	Changes and new beginnings.	We will be sharing social stories with the class about changes that happen in our lives and families and we will talk about changes that can happen in class and in school. Pupils will take part in role play activities with their peers and talk about how they could respond positively to different situations that may occur in their lives.
<b>My enrichment</b>		
Cookery	Following recipes and instructions, identifying different ingredients, learning new cooking methods.	Students will begin to take part in cookery lessons that will be making a snack and simple meals to eat by spreading, cutting, chopping or stirring techniques. The lessons will introduce life skills, creating snacks and straight forward meals, which can be easy and accessible for all students to create.
<b>My world</b>		
RE	Events and festivals across the world.	We will be sharing and exploring all about festivals across the world within different religions. Students will learn about traditions happening within homes and at the churches. We will talk about differences, importance of sharing, tolerance and respect to different religions in class, school and community.
Geography	Mapping	Students will use resources to map the classroom, explore map routes through and around the school. Students will use some Geographical skills and resources for example maps, videos, pictures, photographs, and ICT to answer questions on geography in a variety of ways. They notice similarities and differences between places.

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History	The Passage of Time - Homes	We will be learning how homes changed throughout the years. We will be looking at home equipment, devices or quality of life of families living in the past. We will complete projects within small groups to create our own home from the past by using cardboard and different resources.
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Things that you could do at home:

- Literacy:** read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.
- Maths:** use aspects of shape recognition with your child when they are visiting indoors (e.g. what and how many shapes they can find on buildings) or out in the community. Give more opportunities to further their understanding and confidence in describing objects.
- PSHE:** Talk about any changes in routine that may be happening in their lives (relationships, changes at home, friendships, activities 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 during a food shop or from the cupboards at home.
- PE:** Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities). Take your child swimming if you can as well.
- Community visits:** Introduce your child to explore and discuss interesting places and amazing trips that you go to together.

We are pleased 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, Grace and Robins Class Team