



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term Newsletter for The Treehouse.

I am very excited to start the Spring term as the new class teacher of the Treehouse. We have lots of exciting lessons and activities happening this term, including residential and fantastic opportunities at Leicester outdoor pursuit centre.

As usual, the newsletter provides a short summary of the topics and focus areas for your child’s learning.

Alongside this, we continue to work hard to make sure that the student’s mental, social and emotional health is at the forefront of all our teaching.

Our class are following the Aspire Pathway. This means they are learning subject specific content which is personalised to their strengths and needs. The table below gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills that we will be looking at over the next term. In addition to this, and dependent on individual need, the pupils in our class also have access to swimming and hydrotherapy, SALT/OT, music therapy, Lego therapy, outdoor learning and Pet therapy with Daisy.

Maths		
Spring Term 1	Geometry	Students will recognise properties of shapes, symmetry, angles and where appropriate dimensions and transference
Spring Term 2	Number - Calculation	Students will continue to develop their mathematical understanding by counting in groups of numbers. Students will also develop their understanding of the key principles of addition and subtraction.
English		
Spring Term 1 &2	Media	Students will be focusing on advertisements and looking into features that are used to draw in the audience. Student will also be creating their own adverts using the key skills they have learnt.
Reading		
Spring Term 1	Non – Fiction	Students will focus on non-fiction and reference texts relating to our Extreme Earth topic. Library sessions each week Reading focus every day.
Spring Term 2	Character driven texts	Central character texts acting as a focus for the reader to develop their understanding of character description relating to our Castle and Knight topic. Guided and group reading. Library sessions each week Reading focus every day.
Science		
Spring Term 1	Earth and Space	Students will be exploring how we know that the Earth is spherical, we will learn about the planets in the solar system: their size, their orbits and where they are in relation to the sun. We will learn about the moon and its movement around the Earth and how the moon, sun and earth move around each other to give us day and night. We will also explore

		how the rotation of the earth and its orbit around the sun dictates the seasons. We will also be looking into space travel over the years and student will have a go at making their own rockets.
Spring Term 2	Working scientifically	Students will develop their understanding of working scientifically. Students will develop their ability to display data in tables and graphs and make accurate predictions.
Topic		
Spring Term 1	Extreme Earth	Our Extreme Earth topic, students will be learning about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. Through discussion and practical tasks, the students will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.
Spring Term 2	Castles and Knights	Student will be looking at different Castles around the UK. – This will include a trip local castle. – More information will be sent out towards the end of Spring 1. Student will be learning about the different responsibilities of a Knight. This will link with our Reading focus and student will be looking at how Knight and Castle were represented in stories.
PE		
Spring Term 1 & 2	Teamwork	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
RSE		
Spring Term 1	Let's agree to disagree	Students develop their understanding of the way we think and look at times people agree and disagree. Students will develop understanding of agreeing to disagree.
Spring Term 2	Me, Myself and I	Learning about the qualities and characteristics we share and those that are individual to us. Beginning our exploration into the personal changes that come as we grow older and approach our teenage years.
Cooking		
Spring Term 1 & 2	Preparing meals	We will be focusing on a wide variety of meals this year in which the students learn from scratch how to prepare. There will be use of kitchen utensils and implements and each student will be supported to create the dish as independently as possible and then if they feel confident enough try the dish giving them chances to try different textures and tastes. We will also be selling our meals to staff in the school.



Special interest project		
Spring Term 1 & 2	Special interest project	The student learning project is always an exciting time for the students as it's their chance to focus on something they would like to learn and the staff support in whatever way they possibly can to ensure there's a step by step process to their learning. We have two sessions as we support the students to take control of their own learning experiences.

<u>Things you could do at home</u>
<p>Literacy: Read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.</p> <p>Maths: Use money with your child when they are out in the community. Give more opportunities to further their understanding and confidence in buying objects, and spending within a budget.</p> <p>Preparing for adulthood: Talk about any changes in routine that may be happening in their lives (change of weekend routine etc...)</p> <p>Computing: Play simple directional games together ("move forwards two steps, move left three steps...")</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities). Take your child swimming if you can as well.</p>

If you are unsure about anything, please email me parkerj@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

We are all looking forward to an exciting Spring term.

Best wishes from The Treehouse team

Jade, Rob, Frances, Rebecca, Mark, Rose and Elsie