



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a great Easter break with your families, I cannot believe it is the final term of the year, what a fantastic two terms we have already had!

I am very much looking forward to be working alongside your amazing children this coming term and I wanted to share the topics we will be exploring in The Owls. I will continue to use Kinteract as the method of recording observations of your child as they work towards their learning intentions.

Our topics this term will be: 'A Pirate's life for me' and 'Everybody Do the Dinosaur'

<p>Summer Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>'A Pirate's life for me'</u></p> <p>This first half term of our topic will be all about Pirates! We will be incorporating all things Pirates through many of our sessions. Our Sensory Story- 'A Pirate's life for me' will give our pupils the opportunity to explore many different stimulants related to Pirates and have lots of fun along the way. Each week we will be exploring different sensory tuff trays related to different aspects of Pirates. Our pupils will get the opportunity to taste and explore fruit punch, edible sand, seaweed and crunchy crocodiles! In Write Dance we will be making our own treasure maps to then find the treasure outside in our outdoor exploration sessions. We will also be joining in with lots of pirate themed activities in our Attention Autism sessions. In our music and movement sessions we will exploring musical instruments and moving our bodies along to Pirate songs. The Owls will then celebrate the end of the half term by going to Rutland Water on our community visit!</p>
<p>Summer Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>"Everybody do the dinosaur"</u></p> <p>During the second half term, our topic will be all about Dinosaurs! The book we will focusing on is "Dinosaurs love underpants" We will be exploring all things Dinosaurs through Sensory stories, Attention Autism, music and movement, Write Dance and outdoor exploration sessions. The pupils will be able to explore different textures, smells and tastes linked to different dinosaurs through our sensory tuff trays. At the end of the term will be celebrating with a dinosaur themed day and end of year party to celebrate all the amazing progress The Owls have made this academic year!</p>

Our class will be following the Engagement Curriculum. This 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". See the table below for more details on each area.

My Communication

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. Whilst everything we do on a daily basis feeds into this, there are specific therapies and sessions which help us to develop these key communication skills. Our classroom is a total communication environment where we use Makaton signing, personalised objects or reference, communication switches and photos/symbols to help make choices. We carry out communication sessions on a daily basis such as intensive interaction, sensory stories, Tac-Pac, Write Dance and communication games.

My Thinking

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. Daily sessions within class include our Hello Senses good morning session, sensory tuff trays, cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room. We also have a weekly number singing session where our pupils have the opportunity to explore numbers, number props and songs in a fun and interactive way.

My Movement

Movement is a key part of the curriculum in The Owls. Each pupil has a hydrotherapy programme and will access the hydro pool weekly. We will also continue our weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each pupil on our trampoline. Every Thursday afternoon we have a P.E session in the hall with our PE teacher James, where we will work on pupil's individual targets. We also have our wiggle your scarves session where our pupils have the opportunity to move their bodies whilst involving themselves in a mini dancing session. During music and movement, the pupils will get the chance to listen to different music and exploring a variety of instruments whilst dancing! We will be creating opportunities to develop the pupils fine motor skills which can later lead on to early pre-writing skills. This will be accessed through a variety of activities like write dance, threading, puzzles and through the use of small tools.

Myself

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 we want to increase opportunities for 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 PSHE curriculum, we will be creating sensory sessions based on the themes of 'Emotions' and 'Our Bodies'. We will also have an overarching focus on consent, ensuring that each pupil understands that they always have a choice to opt in or out of touch-based activities. We also seek to give pupils greater independence with their personal care and beginning to use the toilet more independently.

We are also focusing on gaining more independence whilst dressing and putting on shoes and using a knife, fork and spoon during lunch time.

My Enrichment

This area includes lots of different motivating therapies and activities, many carried out by therapist, which help our pupils to develop in all of the other areas of the Engagement curriculum. Some pupils will also have access to Music Therapy in accordance with their EHCPs.

In class, we will have sensory food exploration tuff trays and art activities as well as music and movement sessions. Throughout the year we have opportunities to visit our local community – this term we will be visiting Morrisons and the town park! This will give the pupils the opportunity to build their independence, social and life skills whilst exploring the local area.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class – The Owls
Summer 2023
Curriculum Newsletter



Things you could do at home

My Communication: At home you could support your child's learning by encouraging to communicate using Makaton signs "Hello", "More", "Finished" and "Please". 'Singing hands' is a fun, engaging and interactive, singing YouTube channel that will help develop these signs.

If you are unsure of any of the signs please visit

<https://makaton.org/> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSgfgkristwvJft3BNN-NYQ>

My Thinking: We are loving our weekly number session so encouraging your child to count to 5 (or more if they can!) and involve themselves in number activities and songs will help them to explore number in a fun and engaging way!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_lgJgBbqWE

My Movement: To help your child to develop their gross motor skills by encouraging them to participate in balancing games.

Myself: Encourage your child to help with getting dressed and putting their shoes on. Some songs that we love in the Owls really helps with this skill!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDE6i_ZZkFU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jBfb33_KHU

If you have any questions, please do email me- harrisonk@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Myself and the Owls team are really looking forward to working with your child and we can't wait to see what the last term of the academic year brings!

Kind regards

Kate Harrison