

Birch Wood Area Special school
Curriculum Newsletter
Class The Burrow
Term Summer 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Summer Term! We again would like to take this opportunity to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the summer term in The Burrow. We are looking forward to yet another exciting and busy term as we support your child as they continue to develop their love of learning, making fantastic progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on reading and phonics.

The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP).

In addition to this depending on individual needs of students in our class they will have access to take part in specialist programmes such as music therapy, rebound therapy, Lego therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language and Occupational therapy.

Maths		
Summer Term 1	Time	Students will be discussing familiar events, routines, days, months, and referring to 'before', 'after' and the time that has past. They will also be looking at recognising and reading analogue hours minutes half and quarter hours.
	Geometry	Students will be able to recognise and name squares, rectangles, and circles, compare lengths, weights and capacities using key language such as longer, shorter, taller, compare and order different sized shapes including congruent shapes, measure the length of an object in cm, understand and use positional vocabulary such as inside, outside and describe capacity in fractions. E.g. empty, full, half full.
Summer Term 2	Time	We will further consolidate their learning of analogue clocks as they convert time to digital display, with reference to where time is important and seen in the community (bus, train, plane timetables, time keep cooking, timers in the home).
	Statistics	Students will collect, present and interpret data in a range of ways. Students use tables and tally charts to collect data, then present it as bar charts, pictograms, Venn diagrams, Carroll diagrams and in tables. Students are encouraged to ask and respond to questions about the data to interpret what they have found out.
English		
Summer Term 1	Reading Comprehension	Students will be studying C.S.Lewis' 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' from The Chronicles of Narnia as part of the over-arching theme of 'Tales of

		Amazing Animals and Heroes'. Students will begin by discovering the information a book cover can convey to a reader, be supported in reading together sections of the text and then sequence events from the story. We will be discussing the different characters, categorising the book as being as a fiction based adventure. Lastly students will be closely examining the descriptions of characters given and speech within extracts and will be answering a variety of questions about it.
Summer Term 2	Poetry	To continue to consolidate their learning of comprehension skills from Summer Term 1 as we will be look, examine and experience a selection of different poems. Whilst reading the poems together students will be asked to identify the main characters and themes, answering questions about them and examining any descriptions offered within the poems. Some students will move on to look at different rhyming styles in more detail, with the opportunity to create their own poems about their own special interest.
Reading		
Summer Term 1	Developing a love of reading	Students will engage with different daily stories to develop a love of reading and develop curiosity and imagination.
Summer Term 2		
Phonics		
Summer Term 1	Set 1-3 sounds and phonics within sentences	Students will learn to recognise and blend set 1 – 3 sounds depending on their level of learning. For more support with Phonics for your child, please contact us.
Summer Term 2		
Science		
Summer Term 1	Magnets and Magnetism	We will be looking at how a magnet can be identified and the push-pull forces they exert. Students will have the opportunity to experiment with magnets, making predictions, recording their findings, then categorising materials as either 'magnetic' or 'non-magnetic'. We will be discussing what a material needs to be made of to be magnetic and students will then be learning to discuss magnetism in terms of 'attraction' and 'repulsion' with some moving on to link this to the work they previously did in Spring Term 1 on Space.
Summer Term 2	Movement and Forces	Students will be able to link their learning from Summer Term 1 on magnetism and experience, engage and draw simple conclusions from a number of short experiments with the aim of being able to indicate different types of forces in action other than just magnetism. We will be identifying with particular focus on identifying and beginning to explain, friction, air resistance and water resistance, gravity



		and categorising them as either contact or non-contact forces.
PSHE Zones		
Summer Term 1	Zones of regulation and understanding my sensory system	Using a cognitive behaviour approach, students will develop their ability to recognise when they are in different states called “zones”. Students will also learn how to use strategies to stay in a zone or move from one to another. Students explore calming techniques, cognitive strategies, and sensory supports so they will have a toolbox of methods to use to move between zones. Students will develop an understanding of their own sensory system.
Summer Term 2		
PSHE		
Summer Term 1	Physical contact preferences, people who help us, qualities as a friend and person dealing with bullying	We will be discussing qualities that make a good friend, and working to recognise characteristics in ourselves that make us a good friend to others. Students will be considering the important family and friends who help them. Students will move on to begin to consider behaviours that polite and courteous and how they can effectively communicate the level of physical contact that they are personally comfortable.
Summer Term 2	How babies grow. Understanding a baby’s needs. Family stereotypes changing my ideas	Developing ideas from Spring term 2 about changing bodies, students will be looking at how babies have different needs such as what they can and cannot eat and how they need more sleep than older children and adults. We will also be discussing how all families are different.
Humanities		
Summer Term 1	History – Historical Landmarks	Students will be learning about what and why we have historical landmarks. We will then be discussing and looking to see if we recognise a range of different British landmarks, such as The White Cliffs of Dover, Buckingham Palace, The Angel of The North, Edinburgh Castle. Describing if the landmarks look old or new, decorative, large or small etc. Students will then move on to create a simple fact file about 6 historical landmarks from around the world, (Stonehenge (England), Eiffel Tower (France), Statue of Liberty (USA), Pyramids of Giza (Egypt), Taj Mahal (India), Christ the Redeemer (Brazil), with some moving on to place them on a World Map.
Summer Term 2	RE – Festivals and Celebrations	We will be discussing the different reasons to why people come together, why festivals and celebrations are important to people. We will be highlighting some of the significant events they are based around, such as births, historical events, remembrance and religious icons. The festivals and celebrations students will be learning about will span

		all 6 of the largest world religions; Hindu, Muslim, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Sikhism.
ICT		
Summer Term 1 and Summer Term 2	Excel	Students will be moving on from Microsoft Word and PowerPoint onto Excel. These ICT sessions will continue to be in a challenge format where students will be able to work at their own pace through the curriculum. Skills developed previously in editing and formatting changes in colours and fonts will be consolidated, as students learn how to enter data into a cell and create a table. Students will be given simple sets of data to formulate simple bar charts and then move on to collecting their own data about their own special interests.
PE		
Summer Term 1	Tennis	Competence; Confidence striking and fielding
Summer Term 2	Athletics/ HRF	Challenging Striking and fielding
Games with Gail		
Summer Term 1	Families	Throughout the spring term, students will continue to develop their understanding of the rules of friendship and social communication through playing different games. Student will begin to discuss how to overcome perceived problems, such as who is winning and turn taking, whilst having the opportunity to practice their skills of self-regulation in supportive environment.
Summer Term 2	Growing Up and Changing	
Cookery		
Summer Term 1	Creating a Menu	Students will develop their independent cooking skills by learning to follow and cook new recipes.
Summer Term 2	Cooking from a recipe	
Art		
Summer 1	Animal Art	We will be theming our art sessions around 'Amazing Animals', with each session focused around a different animal. Students will be asked to focus on following instructions whilst the make and paint a variety of different animals, working from examples, whilst still being encouraged to express their own artistic preferences and skills.
Summer 2	Create festival decoration and posters	Students will be examining and then creating their own festival decorations. They will be able to build on their artistic skills used throughout the year to



		create a range of different samples from a plethora of different media.
Well Being		
Summer 1	Write Dance	Students will be revisiting the original Volcano Write Dance music and movements both as gross and fine motor movements, standing and on paper. They will then be extending this as every week they will have the opportunity to repeat and then create movements themed on the different animals from 'The Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The music used for each session will vary and be thematic to the animal of the week, Lion, Beaver, Fawn etc.
Summer 2	Movement and Music Dance	Students will have the opportunity to enjoy and experience a range of different pieces of music from the celebrations and festivals studied in Humanities. Sessions will be comprised of actions and dance moves for students to follow. We will then move on to encouraging students to create their own movements and develop their leadership skills by sharing them with the rest of The Burrow.
Community Visit		
Summer 1 and Summer 2	Swimming	Students will be given the opportunity to practice their skills of self-regulation out in the community at Waterfield Leisure Centre. Students will be developing their water confidence, along with their independence skills in changing and dressing. There will also be some flexibility in being able to access the town park at times as well. Along with swimming, we aim to further increase our community visit offer and will be giving students the opportunity to go out on curriculum related local day trips during each half term.

Things you could do at home

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Kinteract.

Literacy: read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.

Maths: Encourage your child to develop their number formation and counting in groups of numbers at home.

PSHEC: Encourage your child to identify 3 positives about their week.

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. Breakfast meal recipes will be uploaded to Kinteract for your child to access at home.

PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities). Take your child swimming if you can as well.

Preparation for Adulthood: Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces.

We remain always very happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child. We look forward to everything the summer term has to offer.

Joanna M^cKay

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