

Birch Wood Area Special school

**Class: Penguins**

Summer 2023

Curriculum Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

I am very pleased to welcome your children back to school for this summer term. They are an amazing group whom I have had the privilege to begin to get to know. Our themes this term are 'A pirate's life for me' and, after half term, 'Everybody do the dinosaur'. There is an opportunity for three pupils to take part in horse riding sessions after half term on Thursdays, let me know if you would like your child to be considered for this. We are also hoping to take part in a sporting activity visit and a boat trip dressed as pirates (more information to follow)!

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 music therapy, hydrotherapy and outside agency involvement according to their EHCP.

<b>Maths</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Money	We will be learning about money and how we use it e.g. exchanging coins for products. Through this we will be recognising different coins and notes and therefore understanding the different value of coins. We will be further developing our number formation and writing and counting numbers.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Statistics	We will be looking at how we can use tally charts and graphs as part of data collection.
<b>English</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Treasure Island	We will explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Treasure Island story and gain a love of reading</li><li>• personal responses to events and characters</li><li>• vocabulary about pirates</li></ul>
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Dinosaur themed texts and stories	We will explore non-fiction texts about dinosaurs and describe the main characters, events and setting of a dinosaur themed creative story.
<b>Reading</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Excerpts from Treasure Island and Pirate related text.	Pupils will take part in daily phonics sessions. Phonics will be worked on throughout the curriculum. Pupils will have daily opportunities for whole class reading, reading with a peer and regular opportunities to read with an adult.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Excerpts from non-fiction dinosaur related text.	Pupils will take part in daily phonics sessions. Phonics will be worked on throughout the curriculum. Pupils will have daily opportunities for whole class reading, reading with a peer and regular opportunities to read with an adult.
<b>PSHE</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Our Penguins Class	Rules, rewards, rights and responsibilities in the Penguins class. People who help us, this will give us the opportunity to look at the qualities of a friend and a good person. We will be discussing what peer on peer

		abuse, what bullying is and what support is available.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	My family	We will be looking at different families. We will be learning about how babies grow and their needs are.
<b>Science</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Forces and Movement	We will find out about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the force of gravity</li> <li>• the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction</li> <li>• levers, pulleys and gears</li> </ul>
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Forces and Magnets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• magnetic forces</li> <li>• magnetic materials</li> <li>• make predictions regarding magnets</li> </ul>
<b>Humanities</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Geography Maps	We will exploring routes through and around the school by using maps, videos, pictures, photographs, ICT and making treasure maps.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	History	We will be finding out about special events in history. What did they look like? How were they celebrated or remembered?
<b>Food Technology</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Pirate theme cooking	Creating simple recipes linked to pirate theme, exploring the taste, smell and texture of ingredients, using different methods and equipment.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Dinosaur themed cooking	Creating simple recipes linked to pirate theme, exploring the taste, smell and texture of ingredients, using different methods and equipment.
<b>Music/Computing</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Music	We will be singing sea shanties, accompanied by small musical instruments and developing our listening and rhythm skills.
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Computing	We will be learning about tally charts and lists in line with our maths topic.
<b>Art and Design</b>		
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Art & Design	To learn drawing skills using different materials. To design and make pirate themed items. .

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<b>Summer Term 2</b>	Art & Design	To learn drawing skills using different materials. To design and make dinosaur themed items.
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**Things you could do at home**

**Maths:** pupils might like to recognise coins in their piggy bank, count a small bag of coins, experience exchanging pound coins for an item in a shop and notice the use of bar codes in supermarkets

**Literacy:** read a wide range of material (the enjoyment of sharing a book, comic or magazine), read their reading books and work on green and red words

**Preparation for Adulthood:** see individual EHCP outcomes (take part in everyday activities that encourage good health, communication, independence and social skills).

**History (after half-term):** please send into school photographs or appropriate artefacts of your child's personal history (birthdays, holidays, special family occasions), these will be safely returned to you.

**Art and Design:** design a pirate's outfit for our pirate themed day (date to be confirmed).

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on [DayeJ@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:DayeJ@birchwoodschoo.co.uk) I am happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

I look forward to working with your child this summer term.

Janet Daye

Penguins Class Teacher