

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class: The Robins
 Summer 2023
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to our final Summer Term Newsletter to the Robins. During this term we have a range of activities for students to learn about, explore and participate in before summer holidays approaches. We are hoping to take part in outdoor activities and trips to develop our communication and independence skills and increase opportunity to participate in community life. Students would require a spare set of clothing and wellies to be kept in school as we are going to be exploring outdoors a lot more this term.

Our topics this Term will be: ***A Pirate's life for me*** for Summer 1 and ***Everybody do the dinosaur*** for Summer 2.

<p>Spring Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A pirate's life for me!</p> <p>Throughout cross-curriculum and adventurous activities we will be learning, exploring and experiencing all resources and vocabulary about pirates and their life e.g. treasure chest, coins, treasure map, parrot, sword, eye patch etc. We will focus on <i>Treasure Island</i> story by R. Stephenson. In Art we will make own pirates hat, parrot and go on Pirates Scavenger hunt.</p>
<p>Spring Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Everybody do the dinosaur</p> <p>In our final term we will learn all about dinosaurs. Our focus will be on exploring vocabulary and language to describe dinosaurs and its features. We will read a variety of dinosaur books, answer 'What, Where, Why or Who' questions related to the story. We will also attempt to design dinosaurs and dress up too!</p>

As always we are continuing with the Independence Curriculum pathway which covers five areas of learning (listed below). To balance the needs of each of our students the curriculum involves sensory sessions, therapies and specialist programmes such as Sensory Story, Tac Pac or Attention Bucket.

My communication: Literacy/ Phonics /Sensory story/Story massage/Write dance/Dough disco/ Attention Bucket

Descriptive language and vocabulary

We will be teaching two specific literacy lessons per week and daily phonics with a cross curricular approach. In Summer 1 the theme is '**A pirate's life for me!**' Students will be given the opportunity to learn a lot about pirates, sea, water or seaside. This will be supported by Makaton signing and use of communication skills (describe, justify, sequence) to learn about different aspects of pirates life and sea. We will concentrate on our main book- 'Treasure Island' and stories related to it. Students will continue to develop their knowledge to 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: Numeracy/Computing/ Science		
Maths/ Numeracy	Money	We will be concentrating on Money through some of the following activities e.g. playing shop to exchange products for coins, recognition of coins, adding up coins (up to 5p, 10p, 20p); demonstrate an understanding of exchanging coins for products; count up to 3,5,10, 20 and beyond and with support begin to write numbers. As always 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.
Science	Forces and movement	Students will take part in activities exploring and developing their knowledge about forces and movement. They will explore main vocabulary (push, pull, squeeze, press, go, stop, fast slow, up, down). Students will experience and learn that the objects (beebots, electric cars, toys, daily objects) can be moved when touched in a variety of ways or at different speed.
My Movement/Enrichment		
Music/Drama/	Role Play/ Performance	The class will be taking part in various 'warm up' games during our Relaxation sessions 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 continued 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 we will be introducing safety and behaviour around the pool. We will then move onto basic stroke techniques, depending on their current swimming ability.
Myself		
PSHE	Physical contact. Qualities as a friend and person. What is peer on peer abuse	We will be learning types of physical contact (e.g. cuddles, hugs or pushing). We will be taking part in social games and listen to social stories. We will be learning about qualities of our friends 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.
My Enrichment		
Cookery	Following recipes and instructions, identifying different	Students will begin to take part in cookery lessons that will be making a snack and simple meals to eat that will be related to 'A pirate's life for me!' theme (e.g. watermelon ship). The



	ingredients, learning new cooking methods.	lessons will introduce life skills, creating snacks and straight forward meals, which can be easy and accessible for all students to create.
My World		
RE	Events and festivals across the world.	This term we will continue 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	Co-ordinates Mapping	Students will use direction when answering questions and 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.

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 coin recognition with your child when they are visiting indoors (e.g. what and how many coins they can recognise and use once paying for something in the shop) or out in the community.

Give more opportunities to further their understanding and confidence in attempting to buy and exchange.

PSHE: Talk about any changes in friendships, types of physical contact that is important in family life that children may be asking about (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 summer half term!

Maria and The Robins class team