Birch Wood Area Special school

Class – The Treehouse

Summer 2023

Curriculum Newsletter







Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term Newsletter for The Treehouse.

In the Treehouse we are focusing on supporting the students to prepare for the next stages of their learning. We have developed a timetable that I hope will give the students opportunities to learn in different ways and through a wide range of subject specialists.

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 Boris.

Maths			
Summer Term 1	Statistics	Students will learn that data can be presented in the form of a list of numbers or objects, or as a table, chart or graph. They will look at how different types of data can be recorded before using and analysing these representations to solve increasingly difficult problems. In addition, they will also find simple summary statistics, including the mean average.	
Summer Term 2	Topics recap	Students will undertake a yearly review of the topics we have covered throughout the year. We will revisit methods and principles to ensure students feel confident in their understanding as they move towards the next school year.	
	English		
Summer Term 1	Character description	Using a process of read, write, communicate and speak; students will be learning to develop their own character descriptions through their own observations and interesting adjectives.	
Summer Term 2	Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	We will explore non-fiction texts based on our Step into Sunshine topic. We will be learning about sentence building and developing our strategies for spelling. We will expand our awareness of adjectives/verbs/nouns.	
Reading			
Summer Term 1&2	Character driven texts	Central character texts acting as a focus for the reader to develop their understanding of character description. We will be taking part in guided and	

		group reading with library sessions on a weekly basis. We will continue with our daily reading focus.		
	Science			
Summer Term 1	Evolution and variation	Students will be exploring about how fossils are formed and how different animals are preserved. We will also be looking at human variation.		
Summer 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.		
	Тор	pic		
Summer Term 1	Amazing Animals			
		Students will be exploring a different animal each week. We are going to be looking at some Amazing animals' heroes who have won awards. We will be creating a fact file about each animal which will be available for the school to read.		
Summer Term 2	Festivals	Students will be 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		
	PE			
Summer 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			
Summer Term 1	Health and wellbeing	Developing our Zones of Regulation Curriculum for the next school year and beginning of Key Stage 3. This will help with developing wellbeing strategies.		
Summer Term 2	Personal safety	Learning about keeping yourself safe over the Summer whilst out in the Community or online.		
Cooking				
Summer 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				

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Summer 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.

Things you could do at home

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

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.

Preparing for adulthood: Talk about any changes in routine that may be happening in their lives (change of weekend routine 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.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me parkerj@birchwoodschool.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 Summer term.

Best wishes from The Treehouse team

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