



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a lovely summer break and managed to find time to relax. Please find below the outline to what we will be learning about over the Autumn Term. You will find that each half term we introduce a new topic or theme to our curriculum. A thematic curriculum helps our students to understand the bigger picture, as they can relate learning back to the main theme and decode the world around them. As well as our themes, you will read a brief overview as to what the students will be learning in their other subjects.

Our themes this term will be:

Spring Term 1	Weather and the World This half term we will be looking at “ Weather and the World ” and will be making cross curriculum links in all our sessions linking our weathers and the differences in the changes.
Spring Term 2	Feelings After October half term we will be Identifying when people are being kind or unkind — And how our feelings can be hurt. We will develop this further through PSHE.

Our class are following the Independence Pathway, and a small group of students will be following the Aspire Pathway. This means they are learning subject specific content which is personalised to their strengths and needs enabling our young people to achieve personalised specific targets at the best of their abilities.

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics
<p>Literacy – In our literacy sessions we will be exploring what Poems are and what makes a poem unique. We will develop this further and start to question What is the poem about? And identifying key vocabulary to support our answers. We will start to draft our own poems using verbs, adjectives, and nouns.</p> <p>Phonics and Reading – During Phonics we will be developing reading and comprehension skills through further inclusion in personal set Phonics assessments to aid the progression of our young people We will focus on Verbal storytelling skills and learn interactive and repetitive Halloween stories; we aim to create our own Halloween stories.</p>
My Thinking - Maths and Science
<p>Maths – In our Maths session this term we will be focusing on Numbers. We will develop our counting and recognising numbers ranging from 1 – 20. In Maths we will start to add/subtract 2 numbers together and focus on key terms used.</p> <p>Science - In our science sessions this term we will be exploring cells. Throughout our lessons we will be observing cells of animals, plants, and question what a cell is. We will be using microscopes to aid our learning and observe prepared slides with support to fully independent. Our Aim is to Identify similarities and differences between a plant and an animal cell.</p>

My Movement – PE and Dance

PE and Dance – In our session this term we be exploring a **range of sport** and physical activities to develop students' competence and communication. We will be taking part in weekly Dance session that are tailored to a theme or topic which students can perform to peers.

Moving together – Students will be involved in weekly **dance** sessions that will allow students to take part in an end of year performance. Students will learn set routines and start to introduce their own moves to adapt sessions.

Myself – PSHE and AIM

PSHE – During our PSHE session this term we will be exploring how **rules** can help us and consider where and why we have rules. (In school and at home/community). We will explore the school's ethos of ENABLES and determine what is expected of ourselves. Towards the end of the term, we will explore Consequences/ Rewards and feeling proud of accomplishments.

AIM – In our Aim sessions this term we will be exploring our **steps for the future**. We will take part in sessions that offer our young people an insight into potential steps going forward after Birch Wood. After this we will start to learn about **Prejudice and discrimination** and consider what is meant by these terms. We aim to provide young people with the opportunity to explore our local communities and discover what our next steps could look like in real life sense.

My Enrichment

Food for life – In our **Food for life sessions** Learners will be able to ask questions, listen and be engaged in aspects of **gardening**, showing interest in planting and in how fruit/vegetables grow. We will explore and Follow safety and maintenance rules of a garden and learn how some foods are grown from garden to our plates and take part in practical activities to prove this.

Art - To begin their art journey, we will study the elements of art, focussing on **Mark Making** as a form of creative exploration for this term. This will involve making marks using a range of tools and materials, experimenting with various grounds and accessible objects. This is a great project to take outdoors and get rubbings from various textures, alongside collecting natural form items to use as their art tools in the classroom.

Cooking- In these sessions we will **be Developing basic life /cooking skills** that we need in the kitchen. We will also learn about health and safety in the cooking room and what rules we need to follow. We will continue to Explore foods with senses using taste education and have practical cooking lessons to encourage this.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: Have conversations regarding days at school. What was your favourite lesson today? Who did you work with? What have you got tomorrow? This will enable students to develop the awareness of the day and what to expect tomorrow.

My Thinking: Money recognition, adding up change, handling money in shops. Looking at clocks and telling the time. Talking about what day is tomorrow.

Resources for home –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_Qm7tQ2uj0&list=PLof4j58C5B6ei3qWv90ceM6BjxgAXixOf

<https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk/>

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/directories/information-and-support-directory/singing-cafe->

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on meadsj@birchwoodschoo.co.uk I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your young person. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to the next academic year.

Jordan Meads Class Teacher