



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely rest over the Christmas Holidays. I hope that students are refreshed and ready to embrace the new term as we have some exciting learning opportunities coming up this term.

I have put this curriculum newsletter together to share with you the topics and units of work that are being covered by The Lodge (Post 16) this term. This will give you the additional information needed to talk to your young person about their lessons. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term and we hope that the students will enjoy it.

Our [topics/themes] this term will be:

<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Celebrating Cultures in the UK. We will be looking at World Religion Day, exploring artefacts of different cultures around the world and leading an assembly. We will be looking at the book “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Celebrating Difference- We will be exploring the story “Same but different” by Holly Robinson- Peete, Ryan Elizabeth Peete, RJ Peete.

Our class are following The Independence/ Aspire Curriculum which includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths. Personal Development (PSHE, Careers, Work experience, Prep for adulthood skills) and AIM awards. Using a blend of group work, written work and role play to cover the topics.

**My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics**

Our young people this term will come into school and start their reading and practise writing their home address, or do some handwriting practice as a morning transition activity. We will be shortly starting our phonics and reading groups in class to promote our reading skills and develop our love of reading. The book we will be focusing on this half term is book “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel. We will be using a range of methods to support our young people to learn the story, such as role play, class discussions, listening to the story and answering who, what, where, when questions. In Spring 1 we will be focussing on Poetry, the main features of Poems and the different types of poems.

In Spring 2 we will be focussing on the key features of traditional tales, such as the characters, plot, and emerging themes. We will then look at one story in more detail and review all the key elements in the story.

We will also continue ‘Story Sharing’ activities, where the students can tell their stories from their memory with staff supporting them. Story Sharing enables children and adults with communication difficulties to remember and share their own stories of everyday life. It enables our young people to have a voice, say how they are feeling, make sense of things that happen to them and focus on what they can do. We use various mediums to re-tell our stories to support us, such as: Painting, drawing and at times writing them down.

**My Thinking - Maths and Science**

Time/ Fractions

I can sequence 4 pictures of a daily routine

Order Familiar Events

Use time terms before, after, next, first and last

Know the days of the week and their order.

Understand and use words such as today, yesterday and tomorrow

Fractions

Draw the hands on a clock to show time to a hour or a half hour.

Shade half of a shape

Show a half by grouping and sharing objects into 2 sets

Work out half of an even number up to 20.

Combine halves to make wholes.

Convert between hours, minutes and seconds.

Convert times between 12 hour and 24-hour clock

Use time conversions to work out time between two times shown in different formats

Use time and the 4 operations together in calculations

Reading a bus timetable

Using google maps to plan journeys for specific arrival times

### **My Movement - PE**

For Spring 1, the Lodge will be combining groups with the Nurture group from BWV as they both experience and develop their functional movement skills through gymnastics.

For Spring 2, the Lodges' focus will then move onto to striking and fielding games, as pupils will develop skills in sports such as cricket and Danish longball.

From the 6th February, the Lodge will participate in weekly swim sessions at Waterfield Leisure Centre. This is to develop their competency in the water, development of swimming skills and being in the community. These sessions will run for 7 weeks, and finish at the end of Spring 2. A letter asking for permission to attend this activity, will be sent home shortly.

### **Myself - PSHE**

This term in The Lodge we will be revising Consent, how we communicate in a relationship, and what good or bad relationships look like.

We will then have class discussions about Life choices - Marriage, living with family or friends. Understanding relationships with others – Family, Friends, living In the community.

We will finally be reviewing the documents from Mencap, who offer clear and easy descriptions of different relationships that we may encounter in our lives, such as having a Boyfriend/girlfriend/partner, being part of the LGBT Plus community. We will gain awareness of what it means to be Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/Transgender or gender neutral.

### **My Enrichment**

We will continue working on AIM awards and this term we will be focussing on completing the Aim Qualification Entry level 2 Certificate in Skills for Living and Work (Personal Development). This is a 15 Credit award and is achieved on a modular basis. The modules that we will be working on are: Following Instructions, Managing Money, Bicycle Maintenance and Repair, Law and Order, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Applying for Jobs or Courses, Making Career Choices.

Moving Together will be continuing on a weekly basis working on weekly routines, keeping fit and working on a performance for the end of the year at the Curve theatre. This weekly event is held at Birch wood vale school.

We will be continuing the local community visits as a class, accessing local interest community groups and going shopping to the supermarket and cooking our entire meal on a Wednesday. We will also be continuing to attend in the local community (on a day to be confirmed), visiting the library and a local coffee shop for a drink and a healthy snack. Within these sessions we will be practising skills which are role-played in class. These skills include using money, making choices, being independent, reading and decoding text and symbols in the community, communication skills and learning about appropriate behaviour when in public. Please continue to send in a £5.00 on a Friday morning for our community visit in a named purse/wallet. The change and receipt will remain in the purse/ wallet for you to check at home.

This year we will be receiving Art lessons by a qualified secondary Art Teacher. Art will be delivered on a weekly basis. If there is enough interest a BTEC qualification in Art, this will be made be available for selected students to work towards.

Birch Wood Area Special school  
**Class – The Lodge**  
Spring 2024  
Curriculum Newsletter



Electric Umbrella sessions will continue on a Wednesday afternoon. This is a music and movement group for young adults with special needs, it is fully inclusive and is co-run by disabled young people. This is a group where we have fun connecting to special schools all around the country. I will send out a permission slip to ask if your child is allowed to be on camera. If you would like to find out more about this group – see the link <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk>

#### **Things you could do at home**

- When you read to your child or do any activity, encourage them to talk about what they are doing/what is happening/what they understand.
- Helping with household jobs
- Helping with the shopping and cooking
- Making choices
- Thinking about how you can help other people

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

Charlotte Adu  
Class Teacher – Associate Assistant Head