



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term Newsletter for the Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a memorable Christmas break for all.

I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the spring term. I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term, which I hope will include lots of outdoor learning when the warmer weather arrives.

The curriculum follows the Aspire and Independence pathways with a large focus on individual therapeutic sessions, which aims to achieve each student’s personal best, whilst also prioritising individualised targets linked to their mental health and wellbeing within Educational Health Care Plans.

As well as the information detailed below, which gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills, students will have access to the very popular soft play and Library sessions. Some students will take part in specialist programmes such as story massage, Tacpac, dance massage, music therapy, rebound therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language, Occupational therapy and outside agency involvement according to their individual needs. Our swimming sessions at Waterfield Leisure Centre will also continue.

Maths		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Time	Students will identify specific times during the day through sequencing.  Students will recall sequences/spelling of days/months and identify months by season.  Students will identify times in analogue and digital form where appropriate.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Time	Students will recognise and record times on the hour, half hour and where appropriate, quarter to and quarter past.  Students will demonstrate the use of an analogue clock by adding/subtracting a given time.  Students will understand times associated with daytime/night time or am/pm.
English		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Inventors and Inventions	Letter formation and building a sentence. Students will focus on factual (non-fiction) texts and identifying key information.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	True Colours	Letter formation and building a sentence. Learning and understanding adjectives to describe ourselves, family and friends.
Reading		
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	It’s Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading

		Library sessions each week
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions each week
<b>PSHCE</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Why we need money.	Developing our understanding of why we need money and the cost of everyday items.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	How we use money.	Developing our understanding of how we use money and the different options of payment that we are able to use today.
<b>Science</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Changing materials	Understanding how materials can change through melting, floating, squashing etc.  Compare solids, liquids and gases.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	The Changing environment	Supporting our Changes topic – we will explore the changes in our environment through Climate change.
<b>Topic</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Harvest for the World	Students will learn about farming and how the weather helps the crops grow. We will learn more about the animals that live on the farm and the produce we get from them.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	The Show Must Go on!	Exploring some of the classic children's musicals of our time. Looking at different types of music and how it can make us feel.
<b>P.E</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Basketball	In Spring 1, Penguins will focus on developing their skills in invasion games, such as the throwing/catch of balls, negotiating space and embedding rules, as well as their communication skills in a team. This will be taught through the sport of Basketball.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Net Games	In Spring 2, Penguins will then move on to Net Games. Focussing on the fundamental development of movement skills specific to striking. This will be taught throw Tennis, as well as other net games.



Computing		
<b>Spring Term 1 and 2</b>	Being safe online	Students will work on this alongside the school policy to understand the purpose and restrictions of a Firewall. We will also learn the names and purpose of specific pieces of basic IT equipment.
Art		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Changing materials	Students will be learning to use materials in a variety of ways to achieve different outcomes.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	True Colours	Students will express their understanding of special events and celebrations by creating images using a variety of topic/colour related materials associated with Spring and Easter.
Cooking		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Taste testing Changing ingredients Practical sessions Health and Safety	Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes.  Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment.  How do we keep ourselves safe?  Students will learn how ingredients can change in form and appearance, depending on how it is used and cooked.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Taste testing Changing ingredients Practical sessions Health and Safety	Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes.  Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment.  How do we keep ourselves safe?  Students will learn how ingredients can change in form and appearance, depending on how it is used and cooked.
Music		
<p>During this term we will be following the Electric Umbrella Live shows for Schools programme. The Live show is streamed every Wednesday afternoon and you can watch the show online at <a href="https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk">https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk</a></p>		

Interventions		
Spring Term 1	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
Spring Term 2	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
<b>Humanities</b>		
Spring Term 1	Seasons	Learners will explore the Seasons, beginning with Spring. We will think about the changes we see all around us during this season.
Spring Term 2	Seasons	For this very short half term, we will enjoy planting and growing our own flowers and produce.

#### Things you could do at home

**Maths:** Counting songs, number formation and identification, telling time.

**Literacy:** Regular reading and discussing fiction/non-fiction – identify stand out features and enjoy sharing a book

**Preparation for Adulthood:** Discuss how we spend our money.

See your child's individual EHCP outcomes and participate in everyday activities that encourage good health, communication, independence and social skills.

**Motor skills** – writing – letter formation, colouring or cutting with scissors develops fine motor skills.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on [goddardl@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:goddardl@birchwoodschoo.co.uk).

I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

We are all looking forward to another exciting term.

Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Bren, Carrie and Tara