



Dear parents and carers,

It's wonderful to welcome you back after the Christmas holiday, we hope you have had a wonderful break. We are excited to share with you our new topics and units of work for the coming term so that you can talk to your children about their lessons and support them with activities. We will be developing our communication and independence skills by taking weekly trips in to the community, this term we will be going to One Stop to support children learning about money and spending.

This year we will primarily be following the Independence Curriculum pathway which covers five areas of learning which are listed below. All students will take part in sessions such as Story Massage, Attention Autism and Sensory Story.

Our themes this term will be:

Spring Term 1	Ch Ch Changes Our theme is based on our science topic of changing materials where we will conduct a range of exciting experiments and make observations about changes in the state of materials. We will also explore changes in colour in art, and our changing emotions in PSHEC.
Spring Term 2	True Colours This theme comes from our continuing art topic on colour where we will explore using colour mixing to create our own art work. We will also explore colour in relation to learning about our emotions and in music to support us to create music that evokes a range of emotions.

Our class are following a combination of Engagement and Independence Curricula. The overlap in pathways enables us to personalise the learning for the pupils in our class. The engagement pathway is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. The five key areas of the Engagement Curriculum are "My Communication", "My Thinking", "My Movement", "Myself" and "My Enrichment". The Independence Curriculum offers a similar level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths and science.

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

The Robins will continue to follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme over the Spring Term. We will be following the order of sounds that are recommended and we will be completing a variety of activities linking to the focused individual sound. There will be opportunities to explore blending sounds together this term and making words from the sounds we already know. For students within the Robins that have progressed within phonics we will continue to recap gaps in phonics knowledge and extend to reading comprehension. For students within the Robins that are still at the beginning of their phonics journey, we will be focusing on pre phonics skills to do with matching pictures, identifying sounds and developing oral motor skills.

Spring 1: During literacy the Robins will be learning about writing postcards and diary entries based on the books 'Meerkat Mail' and 'The Diary of a Worm'. They will learn to recognise the key features of a postcard and a diary entry, and will begin to apply this knowledge to their own writing.

Spring 2: During literacy the Robins will be learning about leaflets. They will learn that a leaflet gives us information and create their own leaflets about their hobbies and interests.

There are opportunities throughout Spring 1 and 2 to access sensory stories that link to the terms theme. These will allow pupils to access sensory experience that give context to our learning and support our pupils to regulate and fulfil their sensory needs.

My Thinking - Maths and Science

Spring 1: In Maths the Robins are looking at Time and Fractions. The Robins will begin by learning about half and whole, extending to quarters over the term. They will apply this knowledge to be able to halve objects, shapes and quantities. Robins will also be learning about time, including sequencing tasks in order, sequencing daily events, learning the days of the week and months, and moving on the beginning to tell the time.

Spring 2: In Maths, the Robins are looking at Money. This will progress from the coin recognition they will have learnt about in their unit on spending and budgeting in PSHE. We will be recognising what money is and how to use it. We will have opportunities to visit local shops and spend money and receive change.

In Science, the Robins will be looking at changing materials. We will be consolidating our prior learning on classifying materials and describing their properties and then conducting a range of observations and experiments allowing us to observe and how materials change when we apply different conditions such as heat. This learning will be applied practically in cooking through making food by heating, cooling and freezing.

My Movement - PE

We will continue to have weekly PE sessions with James Collington to focus on PE targets and a variety of movement. James is also introducing a range of sports like Gymnastics within these lessons. Along with this, we hope to implement more physical learning into the other key areas by creating on experience opportunities in Literacy and Drama.

There will be opportunities to attend rebound therapy, hydrotherapy and other therapies, in line with students EHCPs.

Myself - PSHE

Spring 1: In PSHE the Robins will be looking at how we spend money. The Robins will learn about how to make choices about what to buy with a given amount. They will create a shopping list and visit a local shop to sp. We will also have the chance to visit our spend a given amount

Spring 2: The Robins will learn about why people choose to eat different foods and how to make choices about what to eat and how to exercise.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Robins
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Curriculum Newsletter



My Enrichment

During spring 1 we will explore changes of colour in art creating our own artwork through mixing colours. We will learn about changes of volume, tempo and timbre in music as we create our own body percussion compositions. In spring 2 we will be continuing to explore colour in Art through painting and looking at the work of impressionist artists. In music we will explore how we can create different mood in music through making changes to the volume, timbre, pitch and tempo.

This area also encompasses lots of different motivating therapies, for example rebound therapy, music therapy, hydrotherapy (EHCP dependent) and activities. We will take part in enrichment activities including rehearsing for assemblies, cooking and themed days.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: Continue to give opportunities to read and look at words within context such as cooking recipes or letters.

My Thinking: Where possible, give chances to use change to purchase items such as visiting the shop with you and recognise what coins they are using.

Myself: Remind students of what a healthy choice is and the importance of eating their fruit and vegetables.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on hallamjk@birchwoodschoo.co.uk I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child and their access to our curriculum.

I am very much looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing the progress the Robins can make.

Kate Hallam-Jones
Class Teacher