

**Birch Wood Area Special school**  
**Curriculum Newsletter**  
**Class The Treehouse**  
**Term Spring 2024**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to 2024 in the Treehouse!

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Spring term in The Treehouse. We are looking forward to yet another exciting and busy term as we support your child in continuing to develop their love of learning whilst making fantastic progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on reading and phonics. The curriculum will continue to focus on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their full potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). We will also consistently be referring back to 'Zones of Regulation' to help support your child in developing their communication skills and self-regulation. In addition to this, depending on individual needs, some students in our class may take part in specialist programmes such rebound therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language sessions, while all will continue with music therapy.

Maths		
Spring Term 1	Fractions	Students will be developing their knowledge of fractions. This will start by exploring real life scenarios and tangible items (playdough/ pizza/ paper) then move on to identifying written fractions. We will be using the language denominator and numerator and students will move on to beginning to recognise equivalent fractions. We hope to extend this onto extending fractions into and from whole numbers.
Spring Term 2	Time	Students will be consolidating previous knowledge of time and then extending this learning into being able to move between analogue and digital times. This will be presented in a real-life context using relatable scenarios.
English		
Spring Term 1	Reading and predicting skills/ retrieval of information from a text	English lessons will be focused on the story of George's marvellous medicine. We will spend the first term concentrating on continuing to improve our abilities when reading out loud, whilst exploring the story and characters within it. We will look at the meaning of words and how they are used to tell the story. We will use our knowledge of what we have read to predict what might happen next. Before demonstrating that we can retrieve information from the text.
Spring Term 2	Writing focus	Students will be writing for purpose, creating labels, lists and instructions based on events from the book George's Marvellous Medicine. We will continue to develop the students use of simple sentence structure, grammar and punctuation through written tasks. Students will be supported in creating written recipes and instructions in the form of leaflets and/or posters.
Reading		
Spring Term 1	Developing a love of reading	Throughout the whole year in the Treehouse, students will engage with different daily stories to develop a love of reading and develop curiosity and imagination. During our daily morning routine students will be reading their appropriately banded books (both fiction and non-fiction) to staff members. During our daily afternoon routine students will have the opportunity to engage in some quiet reading. At the end of day students will also be able to enjoy some short whole class reading sessions, to help support their transitions leaving school.
Spring Term 2		

Phonics and Comprehension		
Spring Term 1	Set 1-3 sounds and phonics within sentences	During these sessions, students will be working at their own pace depending on their level of learning, with some learning to recognise and blend set 2 and 3 Read, Write, Inc phonic sounds. For others, they will be looking at a number of words of the week, embedding what the words mean, alternatives and how they can be used in sentences. We will also continue with our comprehension using The Day current news articles to support this.
Spring Term 2		
Science		
Spring Term 1	<b>Chemistry</b> <u>Particle model &amp; separating mixtures</u>	Students will be introduced to particle models and the three states of matter solid-liquid- gas. They will be initially given these models to examine and relate to their properties and then will be challenging to creating their own. Students will then go on to discuss mixtures and how matter moves between states.
Spring Term 2	<b>Chemistry</b> <u>Metals &amp; Non-metals, acids &amp; alkalis</u>	We will initially be distinguishing between metals and non-metals, categorising them and considering their properties. Students will be practically exploring acids and alkalis and then introduced to the pH scale.
PSHE		
Spring Term 1	<b>Living in the Wider World</b> <b>Careers, financial Capability and Economic Wellbeing</b>	During PSHE lesson, students will be gaining an understanding about the importance of managing money, and how to keep track of it and why saving can be important. The later lessons will involve looking at the world of work.
Spring Term 2	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <b>Healthy Me</b>	We will explore the topic of being healthy with a focus on the importance of food and exercise. We will look at the reasons why people may chose to avoid certain foods, (religious, moral, cultural or health reasons). Students will identify ways that we can all keep healthy and active and what ways they enjoy being active, before finally looking at how sleep is an important part of our daily routine.
Humanities		
Spring Term 1	<b>Geography</b> <u>The United Kingdom</u>	Students will be learning about the united kingdom, we will explore England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales from our classroom here at Birch Wood, looking at flags, Capital cities and learning a little bit about each place.
Spring Term 2	<b>History</b> <u>The Roman Empire</u>	Students will learn who the Romans were, what life was like in ancient Rome, who gladiators were and about Roman gods.
ICT		
Spring Term 1	<b>Staying Safe in the Digital World</b> <b>Internet Safety</b>  Explore and develop knowledge in the dangers of being online and ways to stay safe.	During ICT lessons this term students will have access to laptops to be show what the content of the lessons are referring to and will be asked to record their own work in Microsoft Office Programs. We will initially be working on the difference between 'Public' and 'Private' settings. Students will then be learning about how to keep themselves save whilst sharing data and posting details online. Towards the end of this unit of work students will be asked to consider if everyone on the internet are who they say they are and link this to stranger danger.
Spring Term 2		



<b>PE</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Invasion games</b>	Students 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 primarily be taught through the sport of Basketball.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Net games</b>	Students will then move onto Net Games. Focussing on the fundamental develop of movement skills specific to striking. This will be taught through Tennis, as well as other net games.
<b>Music Therapy</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1 and Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Music Games</b>	Throughout the academic year students will continue to develop their understanding of the rules of friendship and social communication through playing different musical games. Students will begin to discuss how to overcome perceived problems, such as turn taking, whilst having the opportunity to practice their skills of self-regulation in a supportive environment.
<b>Cookery</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Bread</b>	The pupils will look into the background of one of our staple foods, learn about the many different types and how to cook a variety of them.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Edible garden</b>	This unit provides an opportunity for children to learn where and how a variety of ingredients are grown. Firstly, children will learn how to plant seeds and care for their plants so they yield produce that can be used in their cooking. They will learn how to cook with the ingredients they are growing; following recipes and using different kitchen equipment.
<b>Art</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>The United Kingdom</b>	Art for this term will begin by looking at the union flag with students having the opportunity to create their own through mixed media collaging. They will then be creating a further collage of their own 'updated' union flag. Students will then be moving on to study Celtic knots and tartan, producing their own inspired by work.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Roman Art</b>	Students will be introduced to how Romans used wax tablets to deliver messages to one another. They will then be creating their own tablet from air-dry clay and have the opportunity to decorate it using Roman inspired mosaic designs.
<b>Community Visit</b>		
<b>Community Visit</b>		This term we will continue to go out into the community, initially to Waterfield Swimming Pool where students will have further swimming. Students will then be asked to reflect on their Community Visits and will revisit their zones of regulation work.

### Possible Things you could do at home

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Kinteract.

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

**Maths:** Encourage your child to develop their multiplication skills using practical examples at home, such as whilst buying multiple items when out food shopping, explore fractions in cooking and dividing up food.

**PSHEC:** Encourage your child to identify at least 1 positive thing that they have experienced at the end of every day. Model this by sharing your own positive thing and describe how it made you feel and why.

**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, discuss different tastes over meal times. Maybe grow your own food at home?

**PE:** Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities).

**Preparation for Adulthood:** Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces. Discuss the importance of these activities and how they all take practice.

We will be very happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child, our curriculum and anything else you may wish to know as we head into the new term.

*Joanna McKay*

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Mon – Tues - Wed)

*Hannah Jackson*

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Thurs – Friday)