



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a wonderful Easter break and I welcome you back to a new term. Below is an overview of the topics and themes that The Eagles class will be exploring this term. The Eagles team and I am excited for the upcoming term, and we can't wait to share these enjoyable experiences with you and your child, hopefully with a bit of sun along the way!

Our themes this term will be:

<p>Summer Term 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">'You've got a friend in me'</p> <p>Our 'You've got a friend in me' theme will integrate with our PSHEC topic of friendship. Our literacy theme will focus on the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will be experiencing lots of sensory stimuli with a practical approach to learning. Other topics we will be covering consist of Health and Growth, Shape and Measure and Special Places of Worship.</p>
<p>Summer Term 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">'Where you are'</p> <p>In the second half of the term, The Eagles theme will convert to 'Where you are'. We will be investigating our local area and the community around us. Other topics we will cover include poetry where we will look at David Walliams' 'The Worst Pets'. We will also be investigating data handling skills in Maths and magnetism in Science.</p>

Our class are following a combination of Engagement and Independence Curricula. The overlap in pathways enables us to personalise the learning for the students in our class. The engagement pathway is an extremely student 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

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing the ability of our students to be able to communicate, interact and to make their needs known. Whilst everything we do on a daily basis feeds into this, there are specific therapies and sessions which help us to develop these key communication skills. Our classroom is a total communication environment where we use Makaton signing, objects or reference and symbols to help students make choices. We carry out communication sessions daily such as intensive interaction, story massage, sensory stories, Tac-Pac, Dance Massage and Write Dance.

In phonics, our engagement pathway students will be continuing to work on their pre-phonics skills and our independence pathway students will continue to develop their formal phonics skills.

In Literacy students will be looking at the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' during Summer term 1. We will be focusing on a link to drama. In Summer term 2 we will be looking at 'The Worst Pets', written by David Walliams and will also investigate a variety of pet poetry.

My Thinking - Maths and Science

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing our student's attention and anticipation skills and awareness of cause and effect in their environment. It also promotes problem solving skills and making choices. Sessions will include sensory exploration, cause and effect games and activities, as well as sensory cooking. We will continue our 'What's in the Box' and Attention Autism sessions – a firm favourite in the Eagles classroom!

Our science topics in Summer term 1 will be focused on health and growth. In Summer term 2 we will be looking at magnetism. Our Maths topic in Summer term 1 will involve looking at geometry, particularly shape and measure. In Summer term 2 our maths topic will be centred around statistics, looking at data handling skills.

My Movement - PE

We will be continuing with the young people's MATP skill development, and during this half term we will be going swimming!

Summer 1's focus will be around striking & fielding games, so pupils will experience activities that focus on the developing of striking actions, and hopefully some rules/routines to these.

Summer 2's focus will then move to athletic based activities, developing their overall abilities across the running, jumping and throwing disciplines. This will hopefully get them Sports Day ready, or ready to access some/majority of the Sports Day activities.

For Summer 2, we will also look to go outside and get pupils more accustomed to exercising outside more, as opposed to being in the hall.

Myself - PSHE

Our PSHEC topic in Summer 1, will be centred around friendship and ways in which we can be a good friend. We will be looking at who our friends are and why, as well as what we need to do in order to be a friend to others. In Summer 2 we will be learning about the physical changes associated with puberty, including physical hygiene, strategies for managing this and how puberty affects emotions and behaviour.

We will also have a focus on emotions and identifying how we are feeling. This will be demonstrated through a sensory story as well as introducing zones of regulation into our classroom environment with daily check ins to identify how we are feeling.

We will also incorporate opportunities to work on independence skills throughout the school day in areas such as eating and drinking, moving around the school, dressing and personal care needs e.g. toileting and washing. This will look different for each student but the goal is to give every opportunity to increase independence and to make choices about their daily routines. Part of this curriculum also focuses on students exploring their own preferences and having a greater awareness of their own bodies and the space around them.

My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies and activities, many carried out by a therapist, who help our students to develop in all the other areas of the Engagement Curriculum. In class, we will have sensory cooking and art activities as well as music and movement sessions. We hope to provide our students with educational trips and experiences in the Summer term.

Our Humanities topics in Summer 1 is based on RE, exploring special places, particularly those of worship. In Summer 2 we will be exploring history and our local area, learning about parts of Melton Mowbray such as St Mary's Church, the Market and Pork Pies.

Things you could do at home

My Communication:

- Explore your local area.
- Practise and promote independence.
- Share story's and books.

My Thinking:

- Encourage and discuss the importance of hygiene.
- Explore and identify shapes around the home.
- Promote independence.

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

Mary Hall - The Eagles Class Teacher