



Dear parents and carers,

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are looking forward to a new term full of more fun and adventure. We are excited to share with you the topics and the therapies your child will be accessing in The Owls this Summer term. We will continue to use Kinteract as our method of recording observations of your child as they work towards their learning intentions. If you are having any difficulties accessing Kinteract, please let us know and we will pass this onto our IT support.

Our topics this term will be:

<p>Summer term (first half)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">‘Enchanted Forest’</p> <p>We will start this half term with our topic of ‘Enchanted Forest.’ We will explore this theme throughout our curriculum using a multi-sensory approach to all our sessions. This term’s Sensory Story will find us following the story of “Alice In Wonderland. We will be experience the different smells, tastes, textures, sights and sounds of the Enchanted Forest of Wonderland.</p> <p>Write dance this half term will involve mark making in various scented and textured paints as we experience mixing different colours together and exploring different smells, colours and textures of the enchanted forest.</p> <p>This term in RSE we will focus our work on understanding our emotions. Throughout this half term we will develop our understanding of happy, sad, worried and angry, and how to communicate these emotions.</p> <p>Within our Tac-Pac sessions we will continue our ongoing work around giving and withdrawing consent. This is something which underlies all our work throughout every school day and is acknowledged in every session. We place a high value on our students developing their own ways to communicate whether they consent to an activity or withdraw it.</p> <p>Our Sensory Cooking sessions we will be baking Rosemary bread for the Mad Hatters Tea Party. This session will provide students with the opportunity to explore different tastes, textures and smells.</p> <p>Our Music sessions will provide students in the Owls an opportunity to explore different instrument sounds and develop their understanding of cause and effect through conducting.</p> <p>This term we will be introducing a session called Number Fun. This session will provide students with the opportunity to develop their understanding of number. We will be exploring numbers through different songs and interactive games.</p> <p>During ICT we will be further exploring cause and effect using different interactive games on the touch screen and ICT toys such as remote control cars, bubble machines and electronic toys.</p> <p>Our Community Visit sessions this half term will provide students with the opportunity to develop their confidence in the local community. The Owls will have the opportunity to take part in 2 weekly community visits to Melton Town park and Revolution Trampoline Park.</p> <p>To celebrate the end of our “Enchanted Forest” topic, The Owls will have an opportunity to visit Conkers Adventure Park for the day.</p>
<p>Summer term (second half)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">‘All Creatures Great and small’</p> <p>We will start this half term with our topic of ‘All Creatures Great and Small.’ We will explore this theme throughout our curriculum using a multi-sensory approach to all our sessions. This term’s sensory story will find us following the story of “Rumble in the Jungle”. We will be experience the different smells, tastes, textures, sights and sounds of the Jungle and the animals that live there.</p> <p>This term in RSE we will focus our work on understanding our emotions. Throughout this half term we will continue develop our understanding of our emotions and how to communicate them.</p> <p>Within our Tac-Pac sessions we will continue our ongoing work around giving and withdrawing consent. This is something which underlies all our work throughout every school day and is acknowledged in every session. We place a high value on our students developing their own ways to communicate whether they consent to an activity or withdraw it.</p> <p>Our Sensory Cooking sessions we will be baking and decorating jungle biscuits. This session will provide students with the opportunity to explore different tastes, textures and smells.</p> <p>Our Music sessions will provide students in the Owls an opportunity to explore different instrument sounds and develop their understanding of cause and effect through conducting.</p> <p>During ICT we will be further exploring cause and effect using different interactive games on the touch screen and ICT toys such as remote control cars, bubble machines and electronic toys.</p> <p>This half term we will continue to develop students understanding of number during our Number Fun session. We will be exploring numbers through different songs and interactive games.</p> <p>Our community Visit sessions this half term will provide students with the opportunity to develop their confidence in the local community. The Owls will have the opportunity to take part in 2 weekly community visits to the supermarket and Bowling.</p>

	To celebrate the end of our “Rumble in the Jungle” topic, The Owls will have an opportunity to visit Twycross for the day.
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Our class will continue to follow the Engagement Pathway. This is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. Much of our curriculum is delivered through sensory exploration. The five key areas of the Engagement Curriculum are “My Communication”, “My Thinking”, “My Movement”, “Myself” and “My Enrichment”. See the table below for more details on each area.

My Communication
This area of the curriculum focuses on developing the ability of our pupils 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, body signing, personalised objects or reference, communication switches and photos/symbols to help make choices. We carry out communication sessions on a daily basis such as intensive interaction, story massage, sensory stories, sensory drama, Tac-Pac, Dance Massage, Write Dance and communication games.
My Thinking
This area of the curriculum focuses on developing our pupils’ attention and anticipation skills and awareness of cause and effect in their environment. It also promotes problem solving skills and making choices. Daily sessions within class include Sensology (Hello Senses), exploration, and cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room.
My Movement
Movement is a huge part of the curriculum in The Owls. Each child has a hydrotherapy programme and will access the hydro pool. We also have weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each child on our trampoline with our trained therapist Laura. Every Friday Morning we have a session in the hall with our PE teacher James, where we will work on pupil’s MATP (motor activity training programme) targets. These targets focus on developing pupil’s movement needs. Parachute and soft play sessions are also embedded into our weekly timetable.
Myself
This area of the curriculum focuses on empowering our pupils, giving them every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and independence. We incorporate opportunities to work on independence skills throughout the school day in areas such as eating and drinking, dressing and personal care needs e.g. toileting and washing. This will look different for each pupil, 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 pupils exploring their own preferences and having a greater awareness of their own bodies and the space around them. As a part of our RSE curriculum, we will be creating sensory sessions based on the themes of personal care, friendships and relationships and body awareness. We will also have an overarching focus on consent, ensuring that our young people understand that they always have a choice to opt in or out of touch-based activities. We also seek to give pupils greater independence with their personal care, from pupils choosing who carries out their personal care to independent toileting.
My Enrichment
This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies and activities, many carried out by therapist, which help our pupils to develop in all of the other areas of the Engagement curriculum. Some pupils will have access to Music Therapy and Horse Riding in accordance with their EHCPs. In class, we will have sensory cooking, community visits and art activities as well as music and movement sessions.

Birch Wood Area Special School
The Owls
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Curriculum Newsletter



Things you could do at home

My Communication: Intensive Interaction <https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>, Tac-Pac sessions <https://youtu.be/ON9FS6B31yo>, story massage, dance massage and sensory stories (see Birch Wood YouTube channel).

My Thinking: Cause and effect activities <https://www.ianbean.co.uk/senict-members-resource-portal/>, iPad cause and effect videos and songs <https://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/page/?title=Switch+%2F+Touch+Screen+Videos&pid=231>, stacking and puzzle toys, multi-sensory light up toys, sensory exploration and number songs.

Myself: Opportunities for practising our self-help skills, especially during meal times and personal care routines. Giving your child opportunities to communicate their emotions.

My Movement: Exploring different play equipment at the park.

My Enrichment: Exploring musical instruments, singing favourite songs, listening to different genres of music and noting preferences, exploring paints and other mark making or messy play stimulus together.

If you are unsure about anything in the Engagement Curriculum, please email me marriottp@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. We are always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Many thanks and we all look forward to an exciting term!

Poppy Marriott
The Owls Class Teacher