

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class – The Penguins
 Summer 2024
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term Newsletter for the Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a fantastic Easter break.

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

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. We also hope to have some exciting end of year trips.

Maths		
Summer Term 1	Money	<p>Students will identify British Currency coins and notes.</p> <p>Students will recall/sequence specific values and combine coins to create a variety of amounts.</p> <p>Students will understand the purpose of debit cards and contactless facilities.</p> <p>Students will learn the cost of everyday items</p>
Summer Term 2	End of year review	<p>Students will revisit this year's learning and recap the key areas and learning intentions we have covered.</p>
English		
Summer Term 1	Poetry	<p>Students will study a variety of poetry formats including, poems that have used in the medium of song.</p> <p>Students will understand that some poems rhyme and their own "rhyming word bank".</p> <p>Students will create their own Acrostic poems.</p>
Spring Term 2	End of year review	<p>Students will revisit this year's learning and recap the key areas and learning intentions we have covered.</p>

Reading		
Summer Term 2	It's Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions each week
Summer Term 1	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions each week
PSHCE		
Summer Term 1	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.
Summer Term 2	What does it cost?	Developing our understanding of why we need money and the cost of everyday items.
Science		
Summer Term 1	Light and Shadow	Understanding how light and shadows are created and the correct vocabulary.
Summer Term 2	Electricity	Students will learn how Electricity was discovered and how we use it today. Students will also begin to learn about the use of electric vehicles. Create our own Snap Circuits
Topic		
Summer Term 1	Enchanted Woodland	Students will learn about the Summer season in the woodland and the creatures who thrive there. Forest schools activities.
Summer Term 2	All Creatures Great and Small	To tie in with our Seasons topic and our Forest School activities, we will be visiting the Wilderness Garden at Birch Wood Vale and keeping a Nature Diary.
P.E		
Summer Term 1	Field Games	The Learning focus will be around striking & fielding games, so pupils will experience activities such as T-ball and Cricket. Through these sports, they should develop their striking ability, using bats/rackets, as well as their fielding skills, such as catching, throwing and positioning
Summer Term 2	Athletics	Developing overall abilities from running, jumping and throwing – getting ready for Sports Day.



Computing		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Touch typing and Student Lead Project	Students will develop their Touch Typing skills We will then begin a Special Interest Student Lead Project to combine all the skills that the children have learnt this year in a subject of their choice.
Art		
Summer Term 1	Shadow	Students will be learning to use a variety of materials, including light boxes, to create shadow art. This project will intentionally be cross-curricular with our Science topic.
Summer Term 2	Student Lead Project	Students will express their preferences from the techniques we have learnt/experienced this year. They will choose their own “special interest” and create a Student Lead Art project.
Cooking		
Summer Term 1	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 some ingredients have a “season”. We will be using recipes that target summer produce, including Summer Fruits and veg.
Summer Term 2	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 some ingredients have a “season”. We will be using recipes that target summer produce, including Summer Fruits and veg.
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 https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk</p>		

Interventions		
Summer Term 1	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
Summer Term 2	Handwriting Phonics	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
	Humanities	
Summer Term 1	Seasons	Learners will explore the Summer Season and have the opportunity to grow their own produce. We will think about the changes we see all around us during this season.
Summer Term 2	Seasons	We hope the weather will be kind to us so that the students can all create their own Summer Flower Planter. Students will learn about growing and flowering periods, alongside how to care for and nurture their individual plants.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Counting songs, number formation and identification, handling money.

Literacy: Regular reading and discussing poetry – identify stand out features (rhyming) and enjoy sharing a book

Preparation for Adulthood: Discuss how we spend our money and what their favourite items cost.

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.

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

We are all looking forward to the exciting things we have planned for the final term of this school year.

Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Bren, Carrie and Tracey