



Dear parents and carers,

It's great to welcome you back after the Easter holiday, we hope you 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. This term our class have the opportunity to attend swimming lessons at Waterfield leisure centre as part of their PE curriculum.

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:

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| Summer Term 1 | Enchanted Woodland Our theme is closely linked to our poetry topic in English this term where we will be exploring the theme of Enchanted Woodland through story massage, sensory stories and learning about descriptive language. |
| Summer Term 2 | All Creatures Great and Small This theme will closely link to our literacy topic where we will be exploring character development through drama exploring the story of the wind in the willows. |

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 Summer 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.

Summer 1: During literacy the Robins will be learning about poetry using the poems 'Woodland Magic', a 'Sensory Woodland Stroll' and 'The Lark Ascending'. We will explore language used in poetry as well as exploring the poems through sensory sessions. This will lead to creating our own poems about a magical woodland.

Summer 2: We will be focusing on drama during this part of the term, particularly using expression in our voices and thinking about character's we will explore the stories of The Gruffalo and The Wind in the Willows. Pupils will have the opportunity to create props and costumes for their characters and act out short scenes from the stories.

There are opportunities throughout Summer 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

Summer 1: In Maths the Robins are learning about shapes, comparing objects by size and measuring. The Robins will begin by learning to match, identify and name shapes. We will learn through a range of activities and games, and creating pictures from shapes. We will then move on to comparing and ordering shapes by size and measuring shapes using a range of methods.

Summer 2: During this part of the term we will be learning early skills of statistics. This will involve comparing objects, exploring pattern and identifying same and different. Some students will progress to gathering data and comparing numbers.

In Science, the Robins will be learning about light and dark and electricity. We will explore a range of light sources, create shadows and begin to learn about natural and man-made light sources. Pupils will learn to operate light sources, identify light and dark, and name some light sources.

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. This term our PE lessons will be outside, weather permitting. Pupils also have the opportunity to attend swimming at Waterfield.

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

Myself - PSHE

Summer 1: In PSHE the Robins will be exploring emotions through zones of regulation. We will be learning to recognise different emotions and begin to name how we feel. We will explore a range of activities that might help us to regulate our emotions and understand how we feel.

Summer 2: In this term we will be thinking about how our bodies change during puberty. We will learn to identify body parts and how these changes might affect how we feel

My Enrichment

During summer 1 we will explore art relating to our woodland theme. We will explore colour and texture to create a magical woodland collage. In The second half of the term we will be learning about aboriginal art through exploring pictures, textures and different ways of making marks on different surfaces. In music we will learn about changes of volume, tempo and timbre in music as we listen to music inspired by poetry. In summer 2 in music, we will create our own music inspired by our woodland theme, creating symbols and pictures to represent our sounds.

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.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Robins
Summer 2024
Curriculum Newsletter



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