

Birch Wood Area Special  
 school  
**Class 8MJ**  
 Autumn 2024  
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

The students have settled in well to their new year 8 tutor base and showed enthusiasm for learning coming back from their summer break.

Our class are following the Aspire Pathway. This means they are learning subject specific content which is personalised to their strengths and needs. The table below gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills that we will be looking at over the next term.

Maths	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
<b>Number</b> Place Value and 4 Operations	<b>Enterprise: Rickshaw Challenge</b> <b>Money</b>
English	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
Once – Morris Gleitzman (Post 1914 Novel) context, themes and characters; analysing quotations; using PEEL.	Writing for different purposes – Leaflets Theme Parks
PSHE	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
Skills for learning	Accidents and Risk
Reading	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
<b>KS3 Fluency Pathway</b> Words of the week Guided reading Own choice, levelled book Non-fiction articles <b>Phonics Pathway</b> Pupils receive daily phonics sessions appropriate to their needs and module level using Ruth Miskin’s Read Write Inc Fresh Start.	
Science	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
Breathing & Digestion Evolution & Inheritance	Work & Heating and Cooling Wave Effect & Wave Properties

Humanities	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p align="center"><b><u>Geography-</u></b> <b>'The UK'</b></p> <p>Explore the UK's countries and major cities - from the physical characteristics of mountains, rivers and seas to human characteristics.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Geography-</u></b> <b>'Around the world'</b></p> <p>Explore the world's countries focusing on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America.</p>
RE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p align="center"><b><u>What do Christians learn from the Creation story?</u></b></p> <p>Explore the religious of Christianity. To understand the beliefs and values of the religion and the importance to Christian people. Students to focus on the Creation Story and the importance of this story to Christians.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?</u></b></p> <p>This unit allows students to expand on their knowledge on Judaism. To explore the Torah and the importance of this to Jewish people.</p>
ICT	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p align="center"><b><u>File and Folder Management</u></b></p> <p align="center">Develop understanding and organisation skills.</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Creative Media</u></b> <b><u>Photo Editing and Graphics</u></b></p> <p align="center">Explore and develop skills in creating digital media (DVD/Movie covers, Billboards) using photo editor software: Adobe Photoshop.</p>	
Art /Food /DT Rotation	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p align="center"><b><u>Art</u></b> <b>Inspired by Nature part 1</b> <b>Creatures on land</b></p> <p>Students explore a range of art techniques such as observational drawing, painting and printmaking whilst responding to the starting point 'creatures'.</p> <p>Students explore the work of Jon Burgerman and develop their own creature 3D final pieces.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Design</u></b> Village Life 1:</p> <p>8MJ will be investigating the features and content design of a house. They will do visual research a range of different types of habitats and produce initial sketches. They will analyse and produce research on the work of J. Rizzi's house art.</p>
PE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p align="center"><b>OAA/Team Building</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Indoor Athletics Prep</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Team Games/ Invasion Games</b></p>

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<b>Food for Life</b>	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
<p><b>Gardening Skills</b>            Preparing the soil, fertilising, weeding, raking, maintaining garden, planting and watering.</p>	<p><b>Learning about Potatoes Part 1</b>            Facts what products you can buy and understanding the vitamins the plant contains.</p>
<b>Drama/Music/French Rotation</b>	
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Autumn Term 2</b>
<p><b><u>Music</u></b>  <b>Pop music – electronic – using music technology – skills</b>            Project based with brief – resulting in recording or saved file of finished song</p>	<p><b><u>Drama</u></b>  <b>Commedia Dell’Arte</b>            Students will explore the history of Commedia Dell’Arte and look into its origins and how it has influenced comedy today.</p>

If you are unsure about anything, please email us on [Boydj@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:Boydj@birchwoodschoo.co.uk) or [Mistrym@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:Mistrym@birchwoodschoo.co.uk). We are always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeanette Boyd

Metesh Mistry

8MJ class teacher  
 Teacher for Art

8MJ class teacher  
 Curriculum Lead for ADT