



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to welcome you and your child to a new term in The Peacocks class! I hope that you have had a wonderful Summer and are ready to embark on a new school year. Below is an overview of the topics and themes that The Peacocks class will be exploring this term. The term holds a fantastic curriculum, filled with exciting topics and practical, interactive and engaging activities. Our goal is to create a positive and nurturing environment where every student feels supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Our themes this term will be:

Summer Term 1	'Food Glorious Food'
	Our 'Food Glorious Food' theme will integrate our Language, Communication and English lessons where we will be exploring Harvest Festival poetry, as well as our World Around Me Lessons which will incorporate History, Geography and Science throughout the term. We will be experiencing lots of sensory stimuli with a practical approach to learning. Other topics we will be covering consist of Number (Numeracy), Hans Zimmer Film Music (Music) and 'Getting on with Others' (PSHE).
Summer Term 2	'Ch Ch Changes'
	In the second half of the term, The Peacocks theme will become 'Ch Ch Changes'. We will be looking at A Midsummer Night's Dream with a drama focus in our Language, Communication and English lessons, changes from the Stone Age era and hot and cold environments around the world in our 'World Around Me' topic. We will also be investigating number operations in Numeracy, Public and Private in PSHE and 'music that tells a story' in our music lessons.

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
<p>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.</p> <p>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 following the Read Write inc. scheme.</p> <p>The Peacocks, throughout Autumn 1 and 2, will have access to weekly sensory stories that link to the terms theme. These will focus on exploring each of the five senses with a variety of objects. Autumn 1 will be focussed</p>

around Harvest Festival and Autumn 2 will explore a Midsummer Night's Dream. As well as weekly sensory stories, The Peacocks will also experience weekly Story Massage sessions.

During our Language, Communication and English lessons, pupils will explore a range of Harvest Festival poetry with a reading focus, linking to our 'Food Glorious Food' topic. We will explore different poetry styles and techniques which will lead us to creating our own Harvest Festival poem. Students will be looking at the story of 'A Midsummer night's Dream' during Autumn term 2, which will be linked to Drama and creating a diary entry.

My Thinking - Maths and The World around Me

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.

Our World around Me lessons will encompass Science, History, Geography and RE. In Autumn 1 we will be exploring World War 2 which will link to our Food Glorious Food topic by exploring food rations, female roles during the war, farming and growing crops. Autumn 2 will welcome the topic of 'Ch Ch Changes' which explore the changes from the stone age era, hot and cold environments including polar regions and how the Christmas festival is celebrated in our World around us lessons.

Our Maths lessons this term will have a strong focus on number. Autumn 1 will hold an emphasis on counting and place value where Autumn 2 will look at number operations such as adding and subtracting.

My Movement - PE

This term, pupils are actively engaging in their individual motor activity programmes, building on the progress made last academic year. In addition, they are enhancing their skills in team games, focusing on understanding game rules, working collaboratively with others, and applying physical skills learned in PE to a variety of activities. Furthermore, pupils will be attending swimming lessons at Waterfield, where they will work on improving their swimming skills, building confidence and independence in the water, and developing their abilities in a community setting.

Myself - PSHE

Our PSHE lessons in Autumn 1, will be centred around 'Getting on with Each Other'. We will explore our feelings as well as how others may feel during a variety of scenarios. We will think about what can do to encourage and experience positive relationships with each other. Our Autumn 2 PSHE lesson will be all about 'Public and Private'. We will be looking at the meaning of these words and will be exploring personal belongings, experiences and places that may be public or private.

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 a therapist, who help our students to develop in all the other areas of the Engagement and Independence Curriculum. Some of our weekly sessions in class will include, TacPac, Music and Attention Autism. We hope to provide our students with educational trips and experiences in the Autumn term. This term also welcomes the introduction of 'Forest School' to our curriculum, where students will obtain the opportunity to learn in an outdoor, natural environment, encouraging hands-on learning and exploration.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class Peacocks
Autumn 2024
Curriculum Newsletter



Things you could do at home

My Communication:

- Continue to give opportunities to read, sharing poetry and stories.

My Thinking:

- Encourage the exploration of number recognition and counting.

My Myself

- Provide opportunities to practise free choice and consent.

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 Peacocks Class Teacher