



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term Newsletter for the Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a memorable summer for all.

After a fantastic first few days, I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you all for some of the wonderful messages of thanks the staff have already received.

They are all amazing boys and I am incredibly proud to be their Class Teacher.

I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the autumn term. I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term and getting to know the new students even better.

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 our fantastic Soft Play and cooking facilities and a small note to parents that our swimming sessions at Waterfield Leisure Centre will begin after the October half-term.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Number	Students will record numbers and count on from a given number. Students will begin to recognise two/three and four digit numbers and identify more/less We will use our number knowledge during practical activities and Maths games.
Autumn Term 2	Operations	Students will recognize and identify the four mathematic operations. Students will relate operations to more/less Students will use operations in practical and abstract activities.
English		
Autumn Term 1	Food Glorious Food	Letter formation and building a sentence. Students will focus on character description and the use of adjectives within their work.
Autumn Term 2	Ch-ch Changes	Letter formation and building a sentence. Learning and sequencing seasonal stories and songs for special events.
Reading		
Autumn Term 1	It's Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions

Autumn Term 2	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions
PSHCE		
Autumn Term 1	Feelings	Developing our understanding of how situations can make us feel and strategies to help us regulate those feelings.
Autumn Term 2	Religious Festivals	Exploring the stories and traditions of Diwali and Christmas.
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Food Glorious Food	Exploring where our foods come from and how we can eat healthily.
Autumn Term 2	Seasons	Understanding seasonal and climate changes during our year including, weather, temperature, hours of daylight, crops.
Topic		
Autumn Term 1	Food glorious food	Students will learn about foods traditional to our country and times of the year that they are "in season", including Summer fruits and root vegetables.
Autumn Term 2	Ch, ch changes	Exploring some of the ways Autumn and Winter were historically celebrated including Harvest Festivals, Advent and the Christmas season.
P.E		
Autumn Term 1	Team building and Team Games	Competence: exploring simple patterns of movement (running, jumping, crawling, changing direction) Communication: developing basic communications skills for team games (listening, turn taking, talking in a team and leadership). Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship <u>Capture the Flag & Invasion Games</u> Competence: Ball skills (Throwing, catching, rolling etc). Communication: Developing communication for team work and leadership Creativity: Negotiating space, embedding rules and using tactics. Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship
Autumn Term 2	Functional Movement	<u>Gymnastics</u> Competence: Teaching fundamental movement through space – focus on strength, balance and co-ordination. Communication: Developing communication for team work and leadership Creativity: Modelling and begin giving feedback on performance. Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship



Computing		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	ICT functions	Students will work on this alongside their PSHE topic and research subjects where appropriate. We will also learn the names, purpose and operation of specific pieces of IT equipment.
Art		
Autumn Term 1	Lines, Tones and Shapes	Learning to understand the qualities of lines and the variety of artistic patterns which can be created by them. Identifying and learning the key principles of 2D flat shapes. Developing abstract artwork based on an understanding of Tonal Values used in art
Autumn Term 2	Forms and Colour	Learning the principles of 3D Shapes from a range of angles and perspectives. Exploring complementary colours, patterns and understanding the difference between shapes and forms in a range of creative artworks.
Cooking		
Autumn Term 1	Taste testing Food groups 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?
Autumn Term 2	Taste testing Food groups 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?
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		
Autumn Term 1	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.

Autumn Term 2	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
Humanities		
Autumn Term 1	Where we live!	Learners will explore the town we come to school in and the other areas that some students live in. We will look at the different types of homes that people inhabit.
Autumn Term 2	Celebrations	Learners will explore special events and celebrations that take place at this time of year, incorporating our Christmas production sessions.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Counting songs, practical operations - including adding/subtracting items, number formation and identification.

Literacy: Regular reading and story discussions – identify stand out features and enjoy sharing a book

Preparation for Adulthood: Discuss how we grow as we get older.

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.

Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth/hair, tidying rooms, making your own drink or snack and tying shoelaces.

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 another exciting school year.

Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Maria, Bren, Tracey, Mark and Danielle