

Birch Wood Area Special School
Robins
Autumn 2024
Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the autumn term in The Robins Class! We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and that you are just as excited as us to be back at Birch Wood for a new term. We are excited to start the new academic year with both new and familiar members of the team.

We will continue to use Kinteract as our primary method of observations of your child's progress as they work towards their EHCP outcomes and other curriculum opportunities.

Our themes this term will be:

	During these themes' pupils will;
Autumn Term 1	Food Glorious Food We will explore different types of food from around the world, varying of colour, type and smell. We will awaken our senses by exploring food whilst learning. Counting the apples, painting bananas and tasting bitter lemons in Science. In Language, Communication and English, we will be exploring the book 'Supertato', saving our veggie's in despair from the Evil Pea.
Autumn Term 2	Ch, Ch, Changes This term we will be looking at the changes of season, how it will soon be Winter and exploring how this may look. Exploring ice, snow and the frost on the trees. Examining how our leaves turn from green to brown. Most excitingly, in this term we will be starting our Christmas festivities! In literacy, we will be exploring the book 'The Kindest red' by Ibtihaj Muhammad, a story of Hijab and friendship.



My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

Reading and Phonics: All students engage with phonics at the appropriate phase. Activities include listening to sounds, making sounds, differentiating sounds, learning phase one letter sounds and some students are beginning to blend and segment, whilst reading books with specific sounds linked to their phase. When ready students will begin to read and write CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words with sounds learnt previously. Reading is incorporated in to lots of sessions including, cooking, sensory story and theme through the use of symbols and objects to support pupils to read their environment as well as words. This term our theme-based book is Supertato and the author has lots of fantastic adaptations of the original book.

Language, Communication and English: This term in Literacy we will be looking at the story 'Supertato'. We will be exploring the characters of the story, sequencing the story and roleplaying it back to our peers. We will be making our own puppets to retell a fictional story of our choice.

At every opportunity we encourage our students to communicate through their preferred means, which could include pictures, communication devices, spoken sounds and words and Makaton. We use a 'Total Communication' approach, which means that all communication attempts are valued and recognised. Students are given opportunities to make choices and express preferences frequently. All students will take part in small group or individual communication sessions as indicated in their health care plans. We encourage students to partake in our 'good morning' and 'good afternoon' sessions where we model and encourage students to communicate with both staff and peers. We also encourage communication at snack time, where the students are encouraged to use their snack boards to choose their snack.

My Thinking - Maths and Science

Number: We will be looking at counting, reading and writing number using tactile, immersive tools such as rhymes and songs. We will also be looking at addition and subtraction of numbers.

The World Around Us: As part of topic, we will be looking at food that is good for our bodies, food in the Victorian era and food around the world. We will be exploring these different types of food and how they are produced.

My Movement - PE

PE: Pupils are working on developing their overall fundamental movement skills, such as running, jumping, throwing etc. As well as embedding rules, routines, and expectations for PE at Grange Drive. Pupil are also developing their skills in team games, such as rules of the game, working/turn-taking with others, and applying physical skills learnt in PE to differing activities.

Swimming: Our students have opportunities to have therapeutic hydrotherapy sessions in the Hydrotherapy pool here at school if it is part of their physio plan or EHCP. Alternatively they will have swimming lessons at Waterfield Leisure Centre in Melton Mowbray where students work towards their Otter swimming badges and this is something we are hoping to start as soon as possible.

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Myself –RSE

Daily Provision: We focus on tools for regulation every day in Robins. We facilitate this through daily interactions and through building positive relationships, using co-regulation strategies that suit pupil's needs, providing sensory diets for pupils based on their initial sensory assessment and encouraging pupils to engage with sensory or chosen activities that help them to self-regulate. We encourage emotional literacy through The Zones of Regulation. We encourage the students to engage in Tac-Pac and sensory circuits to prepare themselves for learning.

RSE: We will be focussing on the Zones of Regulation this term. We will be exploring kind and unkind behaviours and how this can be presented, and in turn make us feel a certain way.

My Enrichment

Throughout the curriculum, we want to promote resilience, kindness and creativity. This could be through stories and themes, assembly, engagement with community groups as well as taking part in larger fundraising and charity events. Pupils develop a sense of belonging through visits and events within the wider school as well as community trips and visits linked to themes or for weekly swimming. Where possible, we arrange for community members to visit school and talk to us about theme related topics. We use arts to encourage self - expression and appreciation of the world around us.

Art and Design: In Art we will exploring our food glorious food topic by looking at the art of Giuseppe Arcimboldo who created different Artwork using fruit and vegetables. We will be exploring different types of fruit and vegetables to make silhouette pictures, light catchers and expressive pieces of art through painting.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: Give choices at every opportunity to encourage communication, particularly during a motivating activity such as snack time or leisure activities.

Number: Model counting at home, sing counting songs (Jack Haartman on Youtube is a fantastic one!) encourage the children to point whilst your counting how much change is in your purse or how many socks you have to hang on the washing line. Count at every opportunity!

Reading: Display behaviours for reading, model turning the page, pointing to the words, describing the pictures and encourage your children to do it too. Spread a love of reading and reading for pleasure in your home.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me at wright@birchwoodschool.co.uk
I will happily answer any question that you may have, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Holly