

Birch Wood Area Special
 school
Class: The Den
 Autumn 2024
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been really pleased to welcome back students in the Den class this academic year. The class team are really proud of all our students and how well they have settled into their new class. Students have formed positive relationships with each other as well as with all of their new support and teaching staff. We have seen students demonstrate a mature approach to their lessons and they are showing enthusiasm to their learning across the curriculum.

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	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Number Place Value and 4 Operations	<i>Students working between Launch 1-Prep3</i> Enterprise: Rickshaw Challenge Money <i>Students working at Prep 4 and above</i> Enterprise: Rickshaw Challenge Algebra
English	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Synoptic unit linked to Gothic Horror. Reading skills; Entry Level 2 style questions; retrieval; vocabulary; selecting information and evidence.	Stone Cold. Reading skills; Entry Level 2 style questions; retrieval; vocabulary; selecting information and evidence.
PSHE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Managing Pressure	Public and Private Gambling
Reading	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
KS3 Fluency Pathway Words of the week Guided reading Own choice, levelled book Non-fiction articles Phonics Pathway Pupils receive daily phonics sessions appropriate to their needs and module level using Ruth Miskin's Read Write Inc Fresh Start.	
Science	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Forces Energy Changes	Infection & Response ESA - Biology

Humanities	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p><u>Geography</u> The Middle East</p> <p>Explore why the Middle East is such an important world region. It covers both physical and human geography as well as the vast difference in their economy.</p>	
RE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p><u>Good, bad; right, wrong: how do I decide?</u></p> <p>To explore how some religious and non-religious ideas, beliefs and teachings guide people in making moral decisions.</p>	<p><u>How can people express the spiritual through the arts?</u></p> <p>To explore how people express spirituality in different ways (e.g. through art, music, activism).</p>
ICT	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p><u>File and Folder Management</u></p> <p>Develop understanding and organisation skills.</p> <p><u>Computing</u> <u>Binary</u></p> <p>Introduce learners to binary digits and how they can be used to represent text and numbers.</p>	<p><u>Using IT in the real world</u> <u>Databases</u></p> <p>Explore the key terms used in a database and learn why relational databases.</p>
Art /Food /DT Rotation	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p><u>Food</u></p> <p>Develop knowledge of food safety and kitchen hygiene Eggs –uses in cooking. Nutritional Value</p>	<p>Art - First hand observational drawing part 1 <u>Natural Form</u></p> <p>Students will photograph and draw from first hand sources such as shells, crystals and taking resources from the outdoors.</p> <p>Exploring mixed media, they will develop a strong sketchbook which will include contextual research.</p>
PE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<p><u>Functional Movement</u> <u>(OAA/Team Building)</u></p> <p>Initial movement assessment made by teacher. Teaching Fundamental movement and communication skills.</p> <p><u>(Indoor Athletics Prep)</u></p> <p>Teaching Fundamental movement skills (e.g. movement through space, jump, throw, balance and co-ordination) Further establishing rules and routines Development of co-operational play.</p>	<p><u>Team Games/ Invasion Games</u></p> <p>Ball skills (Throwing, catching, kicking etc). Negotiating space and embedding rules. Developing communication for team games (this may still be with adults).</p>

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Food for Life	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Gardening Skills Preparing the soil, fertilising, weeding, raking, maintaining garden, planting and watering.	Learning about Corn Part 1– facts, what products you can buy and understanding the vitamins the plant contains.
Drama/Music/French Rotation	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Drama 20th Century Practitioners A unit that explores three 20 th century practitioners and how they influenced theatre today.	French Introducing yourself

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on Nixa@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Thank you for your continued support,

Alison Nix

The Den class teacher
 Curriculum Lead for PE