

**Birch Wood Area Special
school
Curriculum Newsletter
Class The Treehouse
Term Autumn 2024**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to 2024/25 in Treehouse in Ashton House!

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Autumn term in The Treehouse. We are looking forward to yet another exciting and busy term as we support your child in continuing to develop their love of learning whilst making fantastic progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on reading and phonics where required. The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their full potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). We will also consistently be referring back to 'Zones of Regulation' to help support your child in developing their communication skills and self-regulation. In addition to this, depending on individual needs, some students in our class may take part in specialist programmes such as occupational therapy, speech and language sessions, ELSA therapy and art therapy.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Number	Over the course of the whole term students will be looking at the four maths operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students will be looking at the relationship between them and how sums have an inverse. Students will be working through these increasing the size of the numbers used and working through different methods such as the lattice method and long division. Students will then be using these skills to answer questions embedded in real life scenarios and for some, where appropriate, exam questions. Times tables will still continue to be a focus starter to every lesson using Hit the Button.
English		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Persuasive and explanation texts	English lessons with Hannah will be focused on persuasive writing with a particular focus on understanding and creating our own persuasive leaflets. We will look at all the different English tools that are employed to create a good piece of creative writing and especially how these are used in leaflets. Lessons with Joanna on Monday will be centred around Explanation texts, looking at the features before drafting and refining their own texts.
	Reading focus	We will be looking at the book Skellig by David Almond, as a class we will read the book together and throughout the term look at making predictions, reading for subtext, descriptions and how tension is built in the story. We will complete comprehensions to check information retrieval and look at resolutions before completing personal reviews of the story.
Reading		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Developing a love of reading	Throughout the whole year in the Treehouse, students will engage with a range of daily reading activities to develop a love of reading and further their curiosity and imagination. During our daily mid-morning routine students will be reading their appropriately banded books (both fiction and non-fiction) to staff members. Deepen understanding we will focus on a few words per week, looking at meaning and context for use. At the end of each week we will also look at a news story, reading it together, exploring the vocabulary and our feelings and thoughts on the story. During our daily afternoon routine students will have the opportunity to engage in some quiet reading.

Phonics and Comprehension		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Set 3 sounds and phonics within sentences	During these sessions, students will be working at their own pace depending on their level of learning, those that need it will be accessing the Fresh Start phonics scheme through Read Write inc
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Biology Habitats, Adaptations and life cycles.	Students will ensure that they are clear in how animals are classified into vertebrates and invertebrates, then into various subgroups. Exceptions to the rules will be discussed. Then specific animals will be used as case studies into how life cycles work and interlink in specific ecosystems. Students will also produce food chains and use food webs. Skills in evidencing and scientific questioning will be embedded throughout all lessons.
Autumn Term 2	Physics Forces, Properties and Changes of materials	Whilst studying forces, students will be recalling the different kinds of forces they have previously studied and be asked to balance forces. The way in which materials can be changed, not only between states of matter but all in ways that make them more functional will also be explored. Skills of investigation and drawing conclusions from presented results will be embedded throughout all lessons.
PSHE		
Autumn Term 1	Online safety	We will start the term with a brief look at the riots that happened in the summer before moving onto online safety. Understand that people can be influenced by things online Explain why what they see online might not be trustworthy Know when and how to report something that makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable procedures
Autumn Term 2	Gender diversity and friendship	Gender diversity and understanding. We will look at assumptions and stereotypes about gender. Understanding bullying, what constitutes bullying and how we can address it. Standing up for ourselves and others and the importance of making new friends. Celebrating differences between people and remaining friends.
Humanities		
Autumn Term 1	RE Belonging	Students will be taking a deep look into what is meant by belonging. We will cover why each of us are special and why it is important to be respectful of different religious views.
Autumn Term 2	History/RE Black history	We will look at Black History month, developing and deepening our understanding of this area. Before moving back to continue our RE topic from term 1.
ICT		
Autumn Term 1	Hardware and software	Students will be defining the difference between hardware and software, moving on to look at the different hardware parts of a computer and their functions, along with a broader view on different types of software such as anti-virus/ programs/ apps.
Autumn Term 2	Independent use of Microsoft Packages	Students will be set a project task to work on independently which will involve taking an extended piece of text, formatting it appropriately, then editing it using a range of tools. They will need to add data, enhance pictures and hyperlinks, and then will be asked to present their final work at the end of the half term.



PE		
Autumn Term 1	Team Building Team Games	<p>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</p> <p><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</p>
Autumn Term 2	Functional Movement	<p><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</p>
Cookery		
Autumn Term 1	Food safety Life skills	<p>Introduce basic Hygiene and safety in the kitchen. Developing our life skills in the kitchen. Creating meals, we can make at home.</p>
Autumn Term 2	Knife skills Seasonal cooking.	<p>Developing basic knife skills and cooking skills. Developing our knowledge of cooking terms and equipment. Creating seasonal cooking dishes.</p>
Art		
Autumn Term 1	Introducing & Exploring the Visual Elements: Lines, Tone & Shapes	<p>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.</p>
Autumn Term 2	Introducing & Exploring the Visual Elements: 3D Shapes, Forms & Colour Theories	<p>Learning principles of 3D Geometric Shapes from a range of angles and perspectives. Exploring positive and negative space, colour theories of complementary colours, patterns and understanding the difference between shapes and forms in a range of creative artworks.</p>
Drama		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Introduction into drama and drama techniques.	<p>Over the course of the whole Autumn term Students will be doing a series of warm up drama games that explore using their bodies and voices in a controlled manner. Students will then be exploring characterisation and the different ways in which they can put emphasis on particular traits. This will move on to producing mimes and freeze frames initially as games, then moving on to cross-cutting them to gradually build a story, before Christmas production rehearsals begins.</p>

Personal Development

Community Visit

This will be time dedicated to the development of our students and their social communication. For the first term we will be focused on developing our understanding of the zones of regulation, being able to understand and communicate how we are feeling and developing skills around regulation.

Possible Things you could do at home

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Kinteract.

Literacy: Read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.

Maths: Encourage your child to develop their multiplication skills using practical examples at home, such as whilst buying multiple items when out food shopping, if you search hit the button on the internet you will find a game we use in school that supports their multiplication understanding.

PSHEC: Encourage your child to identify at least 1 positive thing that they have experienced at the end of every day. Model this by sharing your own positive thing and describe how it made you feel and why. The zones of regulation is a great way to support this.

Cookery: Include your child in cooking activities that they can take part in. Ask them to collect different ingredients during a food shop or from the cupboards at home, discuss different tastes over meal times. Maybe grow your own food at home?

PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities).

Preparation for Adulthood: Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces. Discuss the importance of these activities and how they all take practice.

We will be very happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child, our curriculum and anything else you may wish to know as we head into the new term.

Joanna McKay

Teaching in class Mon- Tuesday

Hannah Jackson

Teaching in class Wed-Thu-Fri