



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a new term! I hope you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable break. As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunities this term holds and look forward to working closely with you to support your child's learning journey. This document provides an overview of important updates and plans for the term ahead, ensuring you stay informed and involved in their educational journey.

Our topics this term will be:

Spring Term 1	'All Creatures Great and Small' During Spring 1, we will be looking at different types of animals, their characteristics and their habitats. We will be exploring the story of 'A Magic Faraway Tree- An Enchanted Wood' and creating some fantastic animal themed creations in Art and Design and Cooking.
Spring Term 2	'Superheroes' During Spring 2, we will be exploring all things 'Superheroes'! We will be looking at non-fiction articles relating to real-life superheroes (eg. Inventors, scientists, NHS). We will also be looking at some of the important and super individuals that have shaped our world.

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

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.

In phonics some students will be continuing to work on their pre-phonics skills and other students will continue to develop their formal phonics skills following the Read Write inc. scheme.

In Spring 1 we will be exploring the fascinating story of 'A Magic Faraway Tree- An Enchanted Wood'. We will be investigating the interesting characters and worlds involved in the story in an immersive and sensory way. We will also be focusing on practising our mark making and writing skills.

In Spring 2, our focus will shift to non-fiction, exploring engaging articles about real-life superheroes. Through reading and comprehension activities, we'll delve into the inspiring stories of remarkable individuals who have made or are making a difference in the world. Using a combination of pictures and words, we will celebrate their achievements and explore their impact on the world and our lives.

My Thinking - Maths and The World Around ME

Some of the students in the Peacocks will be continuing their learning on number. Looking at values, counting and numerals. This will be delivered via fun and engaging songs, games and practical activities.

Other students will be looking at fractions and time. For fractions, students will begin by recognising parts of items and completing simple jigsaws, progressing to shading halves of shapes and showing halves by grouping and sharing objects. In our work on time, students will explore daily routines, starting with sequencing two pictures

and gradually advancing to sequencing four or more events. They will also learn to order familiar events and use time-related language such as "before," "after," and "next." Additionally, students will develop an understanding of the days of the week and terms like "today," "yesterday," and "tomorrow."

The World Around Me will allow the Peacocks to learn about Science, History, Geography and RE through practical, thematic learning. This term, our topics are "**All Creatures Great and Small**" in Spring 1 and "**Superheroes**" in Spring 2.

In Spring 1, students will explore animals, their characteristics, habitats, and adaptations through science and geography. Students will focus on identifying animals and their habitats, construct food chains, understand environmental changes, and explore how adaptation can lead to evolution.

In Spring 2, students will learn about real-life superheroes in science and history. They will explore the contributions of inventors and scientists, studying their inventions and the impact these have on our lives today.

My Movement - PE

This term in PE, pupils will continue to work on their individual motor activity programs, building on the progress they have made so far this academic year. They will also focus on developing their skills and understanding of invasion games. This includes learning the rules, practicing turn-taking and teamwork, and enhancing physical skills required for these activities. Fun and engaging games like "Hungry Hippos" and "Domes vs. Dishes" will be used to reinforce these concepts while keeping students active and motivated.

Myself - PSHE

This term in PSHE, our topics are "**Managing Stronger Feelings**" in Spring 1 and "**Dealing with Touch**" in Spring 2.

In Spring 1, students will explore ways to communicate their feelings and needs, understand how emotions can affect themselves and others, and learn strategies to manage strong feelings, including coping with change and loss.

In Spring 2, the focus shifts to understanding physical contact, recognizing appropriate and inappropriate touch, and responding to unwanted contact. Students will also learn to identify trusted adults they can approach for help.

My Enrichment

This area includes a variety of engaging therapies and activities, many led by skilled therapists, designed to support our students' development across all areas of the Engagement and Independence Curriculum. Weekly class sessions will feature activities such as TacPac, Music and Attention Autism, all tailored to enhance learning and interaction.

We are excited to enrich our students' experiences with educational trips and activities planned for the Spring term. Additionally, this term marks the introduction of cooking into our curriculum, alongside Art and Design, providing even more opportunities for creativity and skill-building.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: Encourage the use Makaton, visual aids, or picture cards during daily routines to help your child express their needs and feelings more effectively.

My Thinking: Encourage the exploration of number recognition and counting.

My Enrichment: Incorporating cooking activities into everyday routines, such as simple baking or meal preparation tasks, which promote independence, decision-making, and practical life skills.

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

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class Peacocks
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Curriculum Newsletter



Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's learning journey. Together, we can ensure they thrive and achieve their best. Here's to an exciting and successful term ahead!

Mary Hall
Class Teacher