



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term Newsletter for the Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a fantastic and fun-filled Christmas.

I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the spring term. I am looking forward to our new and exciting topics, and hoping for some better weather in order to include more outdoor learning opportunities. 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 Forest School activities.

<b>Maths</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Measure	Students will learn the different types of measurement and the equipment we use for recording purposes. We will learn the various denominations and how we can use them every day.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Fractions	Students will recognize and record equal parts of a whole. They will recall the number of parts a particular measurement refers to. We will learn the correct vocabulary and divide items through sharing and practical activities.
<b>English</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	All Creatures Great and Small	Letter formation and building a sentence. Students will focus on verbs through animal actions, and learn about famous people who have devoted their life to animal care and conservation.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Superheroes	Letter formation and building a sentence. Students will be learning about non-fiction texts and real life Superhero stories.
<b>Reading</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	It's Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions
<b>PSHCE</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Skills for Life	Developing our understanding of how we can problem solve and resolve situations independently.

<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Personal Care	Identify personal care skills that we have already learnt as we have got older and the others that we are now ready to learn.
<b>Science</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Animals and Plants	Exploring the animals and plant life in our local area and those that are specific to the United Kingdom.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Inventors and Scientists	Identifying Inventors and Scientists who changed the world and how we use their inventions today.
<b>Topic</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	All Creatures Great and Small	Students will learn about the special relationship between humans and specific animals. How should identified animals be cared for? How animals live in family groups.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Superheroes	Exploring some of the qualities everyday Superheroes share. Who are our Superheroes and why?
<b>P.E</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Dance	Students will work on their Dance performance for the Sky Theatre Dance show developing on their competence and creativity skills. Students will be learning a contemporary dance to the songs Paradise and Viva La Vida by Coldplay.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Gymnastics	Students will develop their competence, communication, creativity and challenge through their study of gymnastics. Students will explore basic floor movements as well as moving onto an introduction into vaulting.
<b>Computing</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1 and 2</b>	ICT functions	Students will work on this alongside their PSHCE topic and research subjects where appropriate. We will also learn the names, purpose and operation of specific pieces of IT equipment.
<b>Art</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Visual elements	Learning how to mix and create colours from existing ones. Creating tones by adding lighter/darker shades Mixing water colours
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Mark making techniques	Learning to create a wide range of mark making techniques using a variety of materials and methods. Using colourful mark making styles, patterns and textures.
<b>Cooking</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	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?



<b>Spring Term 2</b>	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?
<b>Music</b>		
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 <a href="https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk">https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk</a>		
<b>Interventions</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1 and 2</b>	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
<b>Humanities</b>		
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Animal habitats	Learners will explore a variety of animal habitats and how animals create them. We will also look at the different types of climates that animals inhabit.
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	Celebrations	Learners will explore special events and celebrations that take place at this time of year, incorporating Lent and the Easter Story.

**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, using cutlery, developing 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](mailto: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 term.  
 Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Maria, Bren, Carrie, Leanne, Mark and Danielle