



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to our Summer term! We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break. We are excited be back for the new term and share with you the topics we will be exploring and the therapies your child will be accessing. We will continue to use Kinteract as our method of recording observations of your child as they work towards their learning intentions. If you have any trouble accessing Kinteract, please let me know and we will resolve this for you.

Our topics this term will be:

<p>Summer term (first half)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Shine”</b></p> <p>This term our sessions will all focus on light, and particularly on the colours light can create. We will be exploring rainbows and how colours change when combined using all of our senses. Our sensory stories will be ‘Planting a Rainbow’, a story exploring the colours in a rainbow. Through the story we will explore colours on the light boxes explore smells and textures associated with colours in the Rainbow. During our story massage and dance massage sessions, we will be exploring this topic through touch and tactile sensory input.</p> <p>In our sensory cooking sessions, we will be operating a latch switch to mix ingredients for a range of colourful foods finding out how we can ‘eat the rainbow’. Pupils will continue to access MATP or their movement sessions as well as Sherbourne developmental movement which we introduced last term. In Music we will explore music that tells a story, listening to music by Debussy and Grieg as well as exploring sounds that represent sun, rain and light.</p>
<p>Summer term (second half)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Around the world”</b></p> <p>During this topic our sensory story will be ‘Around the work in 80 Days’. We will explore sights, sounds, music, smells and textures from different countries and cultures around the world. Our Dance massage sessions will focus on follow this theme as well. Our Story massages will include songs, poems and stories based on the theme also.</p> <p>During sensory cooking we will explore taste and create foods from different countries. We will also continue to work on our ICT targets, using themed cause and effect games as well as switch toys, touch screen activities and Eye Gaze technology where appropriate. In Music we listen to and explore music from Brazil, Africa and china.</p>

Our class will be continue to follow the Engagement Pathway. This is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. Much of our curriculum is delivered through sensory exploration. The five key areas of the Engagement Curriculum are “My Communication”, “My Thinking”, “My Movement”, “Myself” and “My Enrichment”. See the table overleaf for more details on each area.

My Communication
<p>This area of the curriculum focuses on developing the ability of our pupils 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, body signing, personalised objects or reference, communication switches and photos/symbols to help make choices. We carry out communication sessions on a daily basis such as</p>

intensive interaction, story massage, sensory stories, Music, Sounds of intent, Dance Massage, Write Dance and communication games.

### My Thinking

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing our pupils' attention and anticipation skills and awareness of cause and effect in their environment. It also promotes problem solving skills and making choices. Daily sessions within class include Sensology (Hello Senses), Eye Gaze technology, sensory cooking, resonance board work, switch toy work, latch switch control sessions, cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room.

### My Movement

Movement is a huge part of the curriculum in Kites class. On a daily basis we follow our pupil's physiotherapy and positioning programmes, incorporating these into daily activities. Each child has a hydrotherapy programme and will access the hydro pool. We also have weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each child on our trampoline with a trained therapist. Pupils will continue to engage in our MATP (motor activity training programme) targets both through specific sessions and throughout the curriculum. This term we are building in addition opportunities for inclusion in PE for those able to access more active sessions. For some pupils we will introduce Sherbourne, a developmental movement programme designed specifically for learners with complex physical needs.

### Myself

This area of the curriculum focuses on empowering our pupils, giving them every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and independence. We incorporate opportunities to work on independence skills throughout the school day in areas such as eating and drinking, dressing and personal care needs e.g. toileting and washing. This will look different for each pupil, but the goal is to give every opportunity to increase independence and to make choices about their daily routines. Part of this curriculum also focuses on pupils exploring their own preferences and having a greater awareness of their own bodies and the space around them.

As a part of our RSE curriculum, we will be creating sensory sessions based on the themes of personal care, friendships and relationships and body awareness. We will also have an overarching focus on consent, ensuring that our young people understand that they always have a choice to opt in or out of touch-based activities. We also seek to give pupils greater independence with their personal care, from pupils choosing who carries out their personal care to independent toileting. There will be a coffee morning this term to discuss RSE and how it will be delivered to your child. More details to follow soon.

### My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies and activities, many carried out by therapist, which help our pupils to develop in all of the other areas of the Engagement curriculum. Some pupils will have access to Music Therapy, Pet Therapy and Horse Riding in accordance with their EHCPs. In class, we will have sensory cooking and art activities as well as music lessons and sounds of intent. Throughout the year we usually have educational trips linked to our class topics as well as visiting theatre groups such as Bamboozle Theatre Company, who specialise in PMLD sensory drama experiences and Carrot productions, who combine storytelling and drama with live musical performances.



**Things you could do at home**

**My Communication:** Please continue to send in your news switches with the activities you've been getting up to over the weekend. Intensive Interaction <https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>, Tac-Pac sessions <https://youtu.be/ON9FS6B31yo>, story massage, dance massage and sensory stories (see Birch Wood YouTube channel).

**My Thinking:** Cause and effect activities <https://www.ianbean.co.uk/senict-members-resource-portal/>, iPad cause and effect videos and songs <https://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/page/?title=Switch+%2F+Touch+Screen+Videos&pid=231>, switch toys and multi-sensory light up toys and sensory exploration.

**Myself:** Opportunities for practising our self-help skills, especially during meal times and personal care routines. Giving your child opportunities to consent to all touch-based activities and using hand under hand, rather than hand under hand.

**My Movement:** Following physio and positional programmes, practising skills such as head control, supported and independent sitting, crawling, standing for table top activities etc.

**My Enrichment:** Exploring musical instruments, singing favourite songs, listening to different genres of music and noting preferences, exploring paints and other mark making or messy play stimulus together.

If you are unsure about anything in the Engagement Curriculum, please email me on [hallamjk@birchwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:hallamjk@birchwoodschoool.co.uk). I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Many thanks and we all look forward to an exciting term!

Kate Hallam-Jones  
**Kites Class Teacher**