



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable break. It's been lovely to see the pupils return with smiles and enthusiasm, ready to make the most of the final term of the school year.

This newsletter outlines the key topics and areas of learning we'll be focusing on this term. As always, our curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of each pupil, with a mix of practical, sensory, and topic-based activities to support engagement and progress. We've got lots of exciting things planned, and we're looking forward to building on the progress made so far this year.

Our topics this term will be:

Summer Term 1	<p>'Shine'</p> <p>During Summer 1, our topic is "Shine", and we'll be exploring light and shadows in our World Around Me lessons. We will also be diving into the story of The BFG by Roald Dahl, bringing the story to life with lots of fun and practical activities.</p>
Summer Term 2	<p>'Around the World'</p> <p>During Summer 2 our topics in 'Around the World' we will be exploring the story of Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne. We will also be looking at transport, how they operate and how they have changed over time, as well as exploring different forms of transport around the world.</p>

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 Summer 1, we will be exploring the magical and imaginative story of The BFG by Roald Dahl. Through a creative and sensory approach, pupils will engage with the story's characters, settings, and key events using props, creativity, and interactive storytelling. We'll be encouraging a love of reading by exploring the text in a practical, hands-on way, with plenty of opportunities for sensory play and themed activities.

In Summer 2, our topic will be 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Pupils will be going on a sensory adventure inspired by the story, exploring different countries and cultures from around the world. Each week, we'll "travel" to a new destination through hands-on, practical activities such as food tasting, music, dance, art and sensory exploration. We'll also be sharing stories and simple texts linked to different places, supporting pupils' reading, listening and comprehension skills in a fun and meaningful way. This topic encourages curiosity, creativity and engagement, as we discover the world through exciting, multi-sensory learning experiences.

My Thinking - Maths and The World Around ME

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

Other students will be focusing on Shape and Measure, using a practical, real-world approach to support understanding. Pupils will explore shapes, sizes, weight, length and capacity through hands-on activities that link to everyday life. This might include using measuring tools in cooking, exploring shapes in our environment, comparing objects by size or weight, and investigating capacity through sensory play. These real-life experiences help to make mathematical concepts more meaningful, while also supporting problem-solving, communication and independence skills.

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 "Shine" in Summer 1 and "Around the World" in Summer 2.

In Summer 1 we will be exploring the fascinating topic of light and shadows. Pupils will engage in practical activities to understand how light works and how shadows are created. Using hands-on experiments such as shadow play, light boxes, and exploring how light changes throughout the day, students will develop their understanding through real-world experiences. These activities will support sensory exploration and provide opportunities to practice observation and critical thinking skills, helping pupils make connections between the world around them and the science behind light and shadows.

In Summer 2, we will be learning about how different forms of transport operate and how they've changed over time. Pupils will explore how various vehicles move and what powers them, from traditional forms like horses to modern cars and planes. We'll also look at different types of transport around the world, helping us to understand how people travel in various countries.

My Movement - PE

For the Summer Term, the Peacocks will be focusing on Net games, with a particular emphasis on tennis. Throughout the term, pupils will work on developing the key skills and techniques associated with the sport, including coordination and control.

We will be working on coordination, balance, and control through fun and accessible activities. Pupils will be introduced to the basic skills of tennis. In addition to physical development, the lessons will promote important social and communication skills, including turn-taking, following instructions and working with a partner. The overall aim is to build confidence, enjoyment, and a sense of achievement through active participation and positive experiences in sport.

Myself - PSHE

This term in PSHE, our topics are "Taking Care of Physical Health" in Summer 1 and "Taking Care of the environment" in Summer 2. In Summer 1, students will learn about the importance of staying healthy through activities like eating well, exercising, and getting enough rest. We'll explore simple ways to take care of our bodies, including hygiene practices and the benefits of physical activity. Through engaging activities, we will gain a better understanding of how to maintain good health and feel their best.

In Summer 2, pupils will explore the importance of looking after the world around us by learning about recycling, reducing waste, and protecting nature. Through hands-on activities, we'll discuss simple actions everyone can take to care for the environment, understanding how their choices can make a positive impact on the planet.

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.

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class Peacocks
Summer 2025
Curriculum Newsletter



We are excited to enrich our students' experiences with educational trips and activities planned for the Summer term. Additionally, this term marks the introduction of 'My Community' into our curriculum where we will be attending weekly visits to our local community, starting with Fearnley's Ice cream Café.

Things you could do at home

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

My Thinking: Engage in the exploration of light and shadows.

My Self: Encourage independence during personal care routines and emphasis the importance of looking after ourselves.

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

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to your child's learning and growth. Your involvement truly makes a difference, and together, we can create a positive and engaging learning experience. We are looking forward to a fun, productive, and rewarding term ahead!

Mary Hall
Class Teacher