

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class – The Penguins
 Summer 2025
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the summer term newsletter for the Penguins.

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

I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the summer term. I am looking forward to our new and exciting topics, and hoping for some good 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. We will also begin our swimming sessions which will run until the end of the school year.

Maths		
Summer Term 1	Shape, Orientation and Geometry	Students will learn the different types of 2D and 3D shapes, alongside key vocabulary describing orientation and shape properties. Students will also apply there prior learning to expand their understanding of preposition.
Summer Term 2	Shape, Orientation and Geometry	Due to a very short Summer Term 1, we will continue with our topic after the half-term break. We will then move on to our end of year recap, which will include revisiting this year's topics and embedding the key learning from this year.
English		
Summer Term 1	Poetry	A short topic on the various forms of poetry, ranging from traditional rhyming poems, acrostic formats and poems that have been applied to music.
Summer Term 2	Drama	Students will be learning about script texts by acting out character role play/movements and reading out loud.
Reading		
Summer Term 1 and 2	It's Reading time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions
PSHCE		
Summer Term 1	Personal care – How we change as we grow.	Developing our understanding of how we develop as we grow and how our personal care may change. For older students we will have lessons relating to our changing bodies – these will be delivered by a male teacher.

Summer Term 2	Rules and Laws	We will learn the difference between a rule and a law and explore how both of these influence our everyday lives.
Science		
Summer Term 1	Light and shadow	Exploring how light travels, how shadows are formed and how they change in size and shape. Students will also conduct experiments to understand reflection and identify different light sources.
Summer Term 2	Fossils and rocks	We will begin by looking at the formation of the earth before moving on to the different types of rocks – sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. We will then have the opportunity to explore fossils.
P.E		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Swimming	Students will have ten weeks of swimming sessions at Waterfield Leisure Centre. Sessions will be led by a trained swimming teacher and supported by the school staff, who will join the students in the water.
Computing		
Summer Term 1 and 2	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. Reminders of online safety before the Summer break.
Forest School		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Planting and growing	Learning the vital elements that create a sustainable growing environment. Independently use equipment and understand their specific purpose. Enjoy the outdoors!
Cooking		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Taste testing Food groups Practical sessions – cutting skills 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?
Music		
<p>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 https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk</p> <p>We will also have practical sessions which will include following and learning a rhythm, whilst exploring a variety of instruments.</p>		
Interventions		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.

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	Humanities	
Summer Term 1	The Great Fire of London (History)	Learners will explore how the fire got started, how it grew so rapidly, its impact on the community and how it was brought to an end.
Summer Term 2	Changing Weather (Geography)	Learners will explore how our climate has changed in recent years, how it changes during the seasons and how the rest of the world is experiencing climate change.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Counting songs, practical operations - including adding/subtracting items, number formation and identification and using money in the wider community.

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. 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, Zac, Megan and Amy