

Birch Wood Area Special School  
**The Robins**  
 Summer 2025  
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the summer term in The Robins Class! We hope you have all enjoyed the Easter break and that you are just as excited as us to be back at Birch Wood for a new term. We are hoping for some brighter, sunnier days and plenty of outdoor learning. So please remember to bring in sun cream, sun hats and a change of clothes for water play!

We will continue to use Kinteract as our primary method of observations of your child's progress as they work towards their EHCP outcomes and other curriculum opportunities.

Our themes this term will be:

	<b>During these themes' pupils will;</b>
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shine</b></p> <p>In our first Summer half term we will be exploring our topic 'shine'. This will consist of all things bright and beautiful. Poetry, cooking and festivals. In cooking, we will be cooking classic summer recipes to have a picnic at the end of term, such as, cheese straws, pizza and scones. In 'The World Around Me' we are learning about religious festivals, we will be exploring Eid Al-Adha. We will explore how celebrating religious festivals make you feel, how you celebrate and what you eat for the special occasion. We are starting computing and researching about trains, learning how to use google search to find pictures of trains.</p>
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Around the World</b></p> <p>In our second and final half term of the school year, we will be exploring around the World. We will be reading The Wonderful Smells by Julia Donaldson in Literacy. In Maths we will be exploring statistics and comparing statistics in the classroom. For example, how many students have the favourite colour of blue.</p> <p>In cooking we will be making food from around the world, exploring different cuisine such as Italian, Indian, Thai and Chinese, discovering new and exciting tastes.</p>

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**Communication:** At every opportunity we encourage our students to communicate through their preferred means, which could include pictures, communication devices, spoken sounds and words and Makaton. We use a 'Total Communication' approach, which means that all communication attempts are valued and recognised. Students are given opportunities to make choices and express preferences frequently. All students will take part in small group or individual communication sessions as indicated in their health care plans. We encourage students to partake in our 'good morning' and 'good afternoon' sessions where we model and encourage students to communicate with both staff and peers. We also encourage communication at snack time, where the students are encouraged to use their snack boards to choose their snack.

**Reading and Phonics:** All students engage with phonics at the appropriate phase. Activities include listening to sounds, making sounds, differentiating sounds, learning phase one letter sounds and some students are beginning to blend and segment, whilst reading books with specific sounds linked to their phase. When ready students will begin to read and write CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words with sounds learnt previously. Reading is incorporated in to lots of sessions including cooking, sensory story and theme through the use of symbols and objects to support pupils to read their environment as well as words.

**Language and Communication:** In Language and Communication we are exploring poetry. We will be diving into rhyming words and what do they mean. We will be exploring different poems in an explorative, practical way.

#### My Thinking - Maths

**Geometry:** This term in Maths we will be looking at Geometry by discovering shape and measure. We will be revisiting 2D shapes and their properties, then moving on to measurement in the form of lengths, capacity and weight. We will enjoy going on a shapes hunt, measuring magic potions in capacity and using blocks to introduce measurement.

#### My Movement - PE

**Daily Provision:** By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, we support students to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.

**PE:** Summer 1's focus will be around striking & fielding games, so pupils will experience activities that focus on the developing of striking actions, and hopefully some rules/routines to these. Summer 1's focus will be on athletics, developing their overall abilities across the running, jumping and throwing disciplines, and getting them Sports Day ready.

**Swimming:** Most students have the opportunities to have therapeutic hydrotherapy sessions in the Hydrotherapy pool here at school.

**Rebound Therapy:** This term some of our learners will be continuing rebound therapy with a trained rebound therapist. They will be given the opportunity weekly and will work towards the Winstrada trampolining scheme of work.

#### Myself – RSE

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**Daily Provision:** We focus on tools for regulation every day in Robins. We facilitate this through daily interactions and through building positive relationships, using co-regulation strategies that suit pupil's needs, providing sensory diets for pupils based on their initial sensory assessment and encouraging pupils to engage with sensory or chosen activities that help them to self-regulate. We encourage emotional literacy through emotion cards and The Zones of Regulation. We encourage the students to engage in Tac-Pac or yoga after lunch to regulate and prepare themselves for learning.

**Behaviour for Learning:** This term in Behaviour for Learning we will continue exploring The Zones of Regulation, learning about how we feel and how to utilise tools of regulation.

#### **My Enrichment**

**Cooking:** In Cooking we are having a Summer festival themed picnic. Every week we will be cooking picnic classics in the cookery room such as cheese twists, pizza, scones and learning how to be independent and safe in the kitchen.

#### **Things you could do at home**

**My Communication:** Give choices at every opportunity to encourage communication, particularly during a motivating activity such as snack time or leisure activities.

**Geometry:** Identifying 2D shapes around the home, what household object can you find and what shape are they? Exploring measurement around the home, measuring lengths of household items, using weighing scales for cooking and using terms of capacity such as full, empty, half full during water play or bath times.

**Reading:** Display behaviours for reading, model turning the page, pointing to the words, describing the pictures and encourage your children to do it too. Spread a love of reading and reading for pleasure in your home.

**Cooking:** Practice being safe in the kitchen, how to tidy up, wash up and keep the kitchen clean.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me at [wriighth@birchwoodschool.co.uk](mailto:wriighth@birchwoodschool.co.uk)  
I will happily answer any question that you may have, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,  
Holly