

Birch Wood Area Special school
Curriculum Newsletter
Class The Treehouse
Term Summer 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello Happy Summer Term 2025

With the sunniest term of the year upon us we would like to take the opportunity to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Summer term in The Treehouse. We remain enthusiastic about another busy term as we support your child in continuing to develop their love of learning whilst making fantastic progress across the curriculum. We remain focused on self-regulation and will be having some more discrete lessons taught about it. The curriculum will continue to focus on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their full potential academically whilst also working towards individualised targets linked to their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). Alongside our Well Bing and Self-Regulation sessions we will still be consistently be referring back to 'Zones of Regulation' to help support your child in developing their communication skills and self-regulation. In addition to this, depending on individual needs, some students in our class may take part in specialist programmes such as occupational therapy, speech and language sessions, ELSA therapy and art therapy.

Maths		
Summer Term 1 and 2	Statistics and Geometry	Joanna – Students will be learning about how to accurately create tables, box diagrams, pictographs and bar charts. They will be practicing their skills of interpreting the data and creating their own ‘Gold Rules’.
		Hannah – Students will be revisiting their work on 2D and 3D shapes, considering specialist language to be able to draw comparisons. They will then move on to looking at different types of triangles.
English		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Shakespeare	For the whole of the summer term students will be focusing on the film ‘Gnomeo and Juliet’ which is an adaption of Shakespears ‘Romeo and Juliet’. There will be specific attention on spelling, punctuation and grammar as they write some extended pieces focusing on characterisation in different forms.
Reading		
Summer Terms 1 & 2	Developing a love of reading	Throughout the whole year in the Treehouse, students will engage with a range of daily reading activities to develop a love of reading and further their curiosity and imagination. During our daily mid-morning routine students will be reading their appropriately banded books (both fiction and non-fiction) to staff members. Deepen understanding we will focus on a few words per week, looking at meaning and context for use. At the end of each week we will also look at a news story, reading it together, exploring the vocabulary and our feelings and thoughts on the story. During our daily afternoon routine students will have the opportunity to engage in some quiet reading.
Science		
Summer Term 1	Biology Cardiovascular system	In Science students will be studying the cardiovascular system, looking at models of the heart and lungs, learning about the hearts anatomy and comparing arteries, veins and capillaries.
Summer Term 2	Chemistry Rocks	Students will be looking at the rock cycle and scientific models of it such as the ‘chocolate cycle’ with the opportunity to use the Vale’s science lab. Students will learn about the importance of soil and how our environment is ever changing.

PSHE		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Healthy Bodies	Healthy bodies will be focused on linking to Food lessons with students discussing healthier options. They will also be learning about the benefits of exercise, sleep and the reasons and needs for good personal hygiene.
Humanities		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Geography	For the summer term students will be learning about different types of coastlines with a particular focus on how they are changing. From this they will move on to look further at the weather and the impact on the environment as a whole. Finally finishing by considering our ever-changing world and the many effects of global warming.
ICT		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Internet safety	Students will begin by consolidate learning from last year. They will then spend some time focusing on the CEOP website and understanding how they can protect themselves online, with age appropriate 'stranger danger' linked to online grooming being spoken about https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/ .
PE		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Tennis	Competence: Teaching fundamental rules of Tennis, with a focus on bat and ball skills using a number of different techniques. Communication: Develop awareness of personal space and boundaries of touch.
Food		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Food at home and safe handling of equipment	In Food lessons students will be continuing to practice their practical skills by cooking meals that can make at home with my family. There will also be a focus on considering the health and safety in the kitchen, with extra attention To different types of hand held equipment.
Art		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Artist Inspired	Students will be examining the works of Van Gough and then taking inspiration from city scenes to create their own 'in the style of' piece of art using mixed media.
Drama		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Drama techniques with vocal skills and story telling.	Students will beginning by researching the Seven Wonders of the World. From there they will then develop their own story boards and loose characters. Then week on week the group will work collaboratively to take it in turns to direct their own short drama based on the Seven Wonders of the World with their peers being cast as the characters they have created.
Well Being and Self Awareness		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Self Regulation in Context	Students will continue to discuss the 'Zones of Regulation' as a foundation of Well being and Self Regulation. This term they will then move on to consider how these skills can be successfully generalised and applied to real life scenarios.
Fine and Gross Motor Skills Education		
Summer Terms 1 and 2	Strength gross and fine support balance, hand writing practical daily activities.	



Possible Things you could do at home

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Kinteract.

Literacy: Read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking, listening and phonics.

Maths: Encourage your child to develop their multiplication skills using practical examples at home, such as whilst buying multiple items when out food shopping, if you search hit the button on the internet you will find a game we use in school that supports their multiplication understanding.

PSHEC: Encourage your child to identify at least 1 positive thing that they have experienced at the end of every day. Model this by sharing your own positive thing and describe how it made you feel and why. The zones of regulation is a great way to support this.

Cookery: Include your child in cooking activities that they can take part in. Ask them to collect different ingredients during a food shop or from the cupboards at home, discuss different tastes over meal times. Maybe grow your own food at home?

PE: Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities).

Preparation for Adulthood: Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces. Discuss the importance of these activities and how they all take practice.

We will be very happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child, our curriculum and anything else you may wish to know as we head into the new term.

Joanna McKay
Teaching in class Mon- Tuesday

Hannah Jackson
Teaching in class Wed-Thu-Fri