



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Birch Wood! We have had a brilliant start to year 8 and it's been great to get to know your children. They have settled back into school really well and are working hard in their lessons.

Our class are following the Aspire Pathway. This means they are learning subject specific content which is personalised to their strengths and needs. The table below gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills that we will be looking at over the next term.

Maths	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Number. Place Value and 4 Operations. Money. Money Handling skills. Enterprise: Rickshaw Challenge.	
English	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Once – Morris Gleitzman (Post 1914 Novel) context, themes and characters; analysing quotations; using PEEL.	Writing for different purposes – Leaflets. Theme Parks.
PSHE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Skills for learning.	Accidents and Risk.
Reading	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
KS3 Fluency Pathway. Words of the week. Guided reading. Own choice, levelled book. Non-fiction articles. Phonics Pathway. Pupils receive daily phonics sessions appropriate to their needs and module level using Ruth Miskin's Read Write Inc Fresh Start.	

Science	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
Nutrients. Food tests. Digestive system.	Atoms elements and compounds. Biodiversity. Understanding chemical reactions.
Humanities	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>Geography-</u> ‘The UK’ Explore the UK’s countries and major cities - from the physical characteristics of mountains, rivers and seas to human characteristics.	<u>Geography-</u> ‘Around the world’ Explore the world’s countries focusing on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America.
RE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>What do Christians learn from the Creation story?</u> Explore the religious of Christianity. To understand the beliefs and values of the religion and the importance to Christian people. Students to focus on the Creation Story and the importance of this story to Christians.	<u>Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?</u> This unit allows students to expand on their knowledge on Judaism. To explore the Torah and the importance of this to Jewish people.
ICT	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>File and Folder Management</u> Develop understanding and organisation skills. Students to create their folders for the new academic year (lesson 1). <u>Use of IT in the real world -</u> <u>Developing skills in using Word</u> Explore and develop skills in using tools in Microsoft Word. Students will be planning and creating a product as part of their assessment.	
Art /Food /DT Rotation	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>Food</u> Pupils will be developing knowledge of food safety and kitchen hygiene, while using Eggs in cooking. Learning about Nutritional Values.	<u>Design</u> Village Life Part 1– develop designs and produce a prototype for a wooden toy based on a variety of themes; light house, tree house, caravan etc.



PE	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>Functional Movement (OAA/Team Building)</u> Initial movement assessment made by teacher. Establishing rules and routines. Teaching Fundamental movement and communication skills. <u>(Indoor Athletics Prep)</u> Teaching Fundamental movement skills (e.g. movement through space, jump, throw, balance and co-ordination). <u>Team Games/ Invasion Games</u> Negotiating space, embedding rules and developing communication for team games.	<u>Invasion Games</u> Ball skills (Throwing, catching, rolling etc). Negotiating space and embedding rules. Developing communication for team games. Groups may cover 1 choice of sport or complete 2 intros over the term. <u>Functional Movement (Gymnastics)</u> Teaching fundamental movement through space – focus on strength, balance and co-ordination. Develop awareness of personal space and boundaries of touch. Modelling and begin giving feedback on performance.
Food for Life	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>Sugar</u> Learning about how much sugar is in the cereals targeted at children.	<u>Big Garden Bird Watch</u> What is Big Garden Bird Watch as a UK campaign to understand the types of birds in our gardens.
Creative Arts and Languages Rotation	
Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2
<u>Drama</u> Commedia Dell'Arte Students will explore the history of Commedia Dell'Arte and look into its origins and how it has influenced comedy today.	<u>Music</u> Pop music (exploring pop genres) – perform to a brief.

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

Thank you for your continued support,

Catherine Mitchell
8CM Class Teacher and Curriculum Lead for English