



Dear parents and carers,

I would like to welcome you to the Hummingbirds' Autumn Term Newsletter. During this term, we have a range of activities for students to learn about, explore and participate in before Christmas.

This year, we will primarily be following the Navigators Curriculum pathway which covers five areas of learning which are listed below. All students will take part in sessions such as Story Massage, Dance Massage and Sensory Story.

Our themes this term will be:

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<p><b>Material World</b></p> <p>During this half- term, we will be looking at recycling and how materials are made. We will be exploring ways in which we can look after our planet in our Literacy topic, <i>Michael Recycle</i>. Throughout The World Around Me, we will be looking at different materials, how they are made and what their uses are.</p>
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	<p><b>The Show Must Go On</b></p> <p>Within this half-term, we will be exploring drama and music throughout our lessons. We will be looking at how actors move and using <i>Write Dance</i> to create movement artwork. Throughout our Literacy topic, we will explore the diary of an actor and his feelings. We will also act out different experiences and use these to create writing pieces about how we felt.</p>

Our class are following a combination of Sensory and Discrete learning Curricula. The overlap enables us to personalise the learning for the pupils in our class. The sensory curriculum is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. The five key areas of this are: "My Communication", "My Thinking", "My Movement", "Myself" and "My Enrichment". This is offered at a similar level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as Literacy, Maths and 'The World Around Me' (Humanities).

#### **My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics**

The Hummingbirds will continue to follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme over the Autumn Term. We will be following the order of sounds that are recommended and we will be completing a variety of activities linking to the focused individual sound. There will be opportunities to explore objects that begin with each phoneme (sound) as well as practising letter formation and blending. For students within the Hummingbirds who have progressed within phonics, we will continue to recap gaps in phonics knowledge and if and when we think the students are ready, we will extend to reading comprehension.

**Autumn 1:** During Literacy, we will be exploring the book *Michael Recycle*. We will be looking at how we can support our planet and following "Michael's Green Tips". This will include a variety of practical and written learning by performing the green tip e.g. checking lights are turned off around our school. By the end of the half term, we will have created a variety of flyers to encourage our community to look after the planet.

**Autumn 2:** During Literacy, we will be looking at the book *Song and Dance Man* about a Grandfather who is telling his grandchildren all about his time on the stage. We will use our drama skills to participate in some of the stories the Grandfather discusses and write about how it made us feel to perform through diary entries. We will use this to learn about the features of a diary in detail.

There are opportunities throughout Autumn 1 and 2 to access sensory stories that link to the term's theme. These will focus on exploring each of the eight senses with a variety of objects. Each Sensory Story will link to the Literacy topic and be explored throughout the lessons.

### **My Thinking - Maths and The World Around Me**

Throughout **Autumn 1 and 2**, the Hummingbirds will focus on developing their understanding of numbers. They will begin by counting objects up to 20, representing each number up to 20 using a variety of objects and comparing numbers. By the end of Autumn 1, they will be able to recognise and count forwards and backwards to 20. We will be using a variety of sensory and hands on experiences to give opportunities for them to count. In addition, different methods of representing numbers, such as Numicon, tens frames, and base ten, will be introduced to help them explore partitioning and identifying greater than or less than. Moving forward, the Hummingbirds will shift their focus to addition and subtraction, starting with understanding "more" and "less." They will learn to identify one more or one less of a given number before recognising the addition and subtraction symbols. Using this foundation, they will work on simple addition and subtraction, gradually progressing to crossing the tens. For some Hummingbirds, the goal is to advance towards recognising doubles and solving basic number problems, as well as extending students by using larger numbers.

**The World Around Me** will allow the Hummingbirds to learn about **Science, History, Geography and RE** through practical, thematic learning.

**Autumn 1:** In The World Around Me topic, we will be exploring materials and how they are used. We will focus on 4 materials; wood, metal, wool and plastic. We will also be identifying man-made versus natural materials. Each week, we will explore the material and its uses through practical sessions. For some Hummingbirds, the goal for each lesson will be to sequence how the material is created and sold e.g. tree, wood, table shop.

**Autumn 2:** During this half-term, the Hummingbirds will explore the *Great Fire of London* through practical, hands-on activities to help bring history to life. They'll take part in sensory experiences, such as handling replica objects and exploring sights, smells, and sounds from 1666. Through storytelling, role play, and simple sequencing, the children will begin to understand what happened during the fire and why it was important.

### **My Movement - PE**

We will continue to have weekly PE sessions with James Collington to focus on PE targets and a variety of movement. Pupils are currently focused on developing their skills in team games, which includes learning the rules of various games, practising cooperation and turn-taking with others, and applying physical skills acquired in PE to different activities. Later in the term, they will also explore aspects of outdoor adventurous activities, with a particular emphasis on enhancing their orienteering skills. Along with this, we hope to implement more physical learning into the other key areas by creating on experience opportunities in Literacy and Drama. There will be opportunities to attend rebound therapy and other therapies, in line with students EHCPs.



### Myself - PSHE

**Autumn 1:** In PSHE, we will be looking at people who are special to us. We will listen to a Sensory Story introducing the different special people in our lives before showing our peers our special people. We will be using photos of our families to recognise who is important to us.

**Autumn 2:** Within this half-term, we will be exploring the internet. We will look at staying safe and how to use the internet. We will explore a variety of SENICT games and look at how we may communicate with our friends. For some Hummingbirds that access online games such as Roblox we will look at how we can use this safely.

### My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies, for example rebound therapy, music therapy, hydrotherapy and activities. We will take part in enrichment activities including rehearsing for assemblies, cooking and themed days. We will also be taking some trips into our community, such as walking to a local park through our learning. This will help build confidence within the community.

### Things you could do at home

**My Communication:** Help your child practise recycling at home by sorting materials like paper, plastic, and glass into the correct recycling bins, making it a fun way to learn about taking care of the environment

**My Thinking:** Try counting different items at home and in the community up to 20, or further if your child is able!

**My Movement:** Encourage your child to play games that involve taking turns or working together as a team, helping them to build cooperation and social skills in a fun way.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on [clewlowmillerv@birchwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:clewlowmillerv@birchwoodschoo.co.uk)

The Hummingbird's Team and I are always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

We are very much looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing the progress the Hummingbirds can make.

Many thanks for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Victoria Clewlow Miller and the Hummingbird Team  
(Class Teacher)