

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term Newsletter for the Penguins.

It is wonderful to welcome your children back after what has clearly been a memorable Summer for all.

After a fantastic first few weeks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you all for some of the wonderful messages of thanks the staff have already received.

They are all amazing children and I am incredibly proud to be their Class Teacher.

I would like to share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the Autumn term. I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term and getting to know the new students even better.

The curriculum follows the Navigators (Semi formal) 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 a small note to parents that our swimming sessions at Waterfield Leisure Centre will begin after the October half-term.

Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Number	<p>Students will record numbers and count on from a given number.</p> <p>Students will begin to recognise two/three and four digit numbers – appropriate to their personal level - and identify more/less</p> <p>We will use our number knowledge during practical activities and Maths games.</p>
Autumn Term 2	Operations	<p>Students will recognize and identify the four mathematic operations.</p> <p>Students will relate operations to more/less</p> <p>Students will use operations in practical and abstract activities.</p>
English		
Autumn Term 1	In this Material World	<p>Letter formation and building a sentence.</p> <p>Students will focus on character description and the use of adjectives within their work.</p>
Autumn Term 2	The Show Must Go On	<p>Letter formation and building a sentence.</p> <p>Learning and sequencing seasonal stories and songs for special events.</p>
Reading		
Autumn Term 1	It's Reading time!	<p>1:1 Daily reading</p> <p>Story time</p> <p>Guided and group reading</p> <p>Library sessions</p>

Autumn Term 2	It's Reading Time!	1:1 Daily reading Story time Guided and group reading Library sessions
PSHCE		
Autumn Term 1	Feelings	Developing our understanding of how situations can make us feel and strategies to help us regulate those feelings.
Autumn Term 2	Religious Festivals	Exploring the stories and traditions of Diwali and Christmas.
Science		
Autumn Term 1	Materials	Exploring the properties of materials which will includes categorizing, and identifying those materials that can be recycled.
Autumn Term 2	Space	Identifying planets looking at their order in our Solar System, their composition, and their temperature.
Topic/The World Around Us		
Autumn Term 1	It's a Material World	Students will learn about climate change and its effects on the planet. We will also learn about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
Autumn Term 2	The Show Must Go on	Exploring some of the celebrations that take place in different parts of the world at this time of year.
P.E		
Autumn Term 1	Team building and Team Games	Competence: exploring simple patterns of movement (running, jumping, crawling, changing direction) Communication: developing basic communications skills for team games (listening, turn taking, talking in a team and leadership). Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship <u>Capture the Flag & Invasion Games</u> Competence: Ball skills (Throwing, catching, rolling etc). Communication: Developing communication for team work and leadership Creativity: Negotiating space, embedding rules and using tactics. Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship <u>Gymnastics</u> Competence: Teaching fundamental movement through space – focus on strength, balance and co-ordination.



Autumn Term 2	Functional Movement	<p>Communication: Developing communication for team work and leadership</p> <p>Creativity: Modelling and begin giving feedback on performance.</p> <p>Challenge: Practising skills for good sportsmanship</p>
Computing		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	ICT functions	<p>Students will work on this alongside their PSHE topic and research subjects where appropriate.</p> <p>We will also learn the names, purpose and operation of specific pieces of IT equipment.</p>
Art		
Autumn Term 1	Lines, Tones and Shapes	Learning to understand the qualities of lines and the variety of artistic patterns which can be created by them. Identifying and learning the key principles of 2D flat shapes. Developing abstract artwork based on an understanding of Tonal Values used in art
Autumn Term 2	Forms and Colour	Learning the principles of 3D Shapes from a range of angles and perspectives. Exploring complementary colours, patterns and understanding the difference between shapes and forms in a range of creative artworks.
Cooking		
Autumn Term 1	Taste testing Food groups Practical sessions Health and Safety	<p>Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes.</p> <p>Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment.</p> <p>How do we keep ourselves safe?</p>
Autumn Term 2	Taste testing Food groups Practical sessions Health and Safety	<p>Students will learn to share their food preferences and explore new tastes.</p> <p>Health and safety expectations around the kitchen and during the use of unfamiliar equipment.</p> <p>How do we keep ourselves safe?</p>
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 use the Sparkyard online music website for schools, and some students will access individual sessions with Robin, our Music Therapist.</p>		

Interventions		
Autumn Term 1	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.
Autumn Term 2	Handwriting Phonics Counting Times Tables	Individual learning programmes to develop functional skills at your child's appropriate stage.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Counting songs, practical operations - including adding/subtracting items, number formation and identification.

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 develops 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 school year.

Best wishes from The Penguins team

Lisa, Maria, Bren, Surbi, Megan, Ellie and Zac