



Dear parents and carers,

I would like to welcome you to the Robins 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:

Autumn Term 1	<p>Material World</p> <p>During the 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, Michael Recycle. Throughout The World Around Me we will be looking at different materials, how they are made and what their uses are.</p>
Autumn Term 2	<p>The Show Must Go On</p> <p>This term we will be exploring drama and music throughout our lessons. We will be looking at how actors moved and using Write Dance to create movement artwork. Throughout our literacy topic we will also explore the diary of an actor and how he felt. We will act out different experiences and use this 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 Navigator's 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 Robins 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 items that begin with each phoneme as well as practice letter formation and blending. For students within the Robins that have progressed within phonics we will continue to recap gaps in phonics knowledge and 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 terms 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 Robins will focus on developing their understanding of numbers. They will begin by counting objects up to 20 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, hands on experiences to give opportunities for them to count. In addition, different methods of representing numbers, such as Numicon, tens frames, and base tens, will be introduced to help them explore partitioning and identifying greater than or less than. Moving forward, the Robins 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 Robins, the goal is to advance towards recognising doubles and solving basic number problems.

The World Around Me will allow the Robins 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 their uses through practical sessions. For some Robins, 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 term the Robins 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, practicing 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 student's EHCPs.

Myself - PSHE

Autumn 1: In PSHE, we will be looking at those 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.

Birch Wood Area Special school

Class: Robins

Autumn 2025

Curriculum Newsletter



Autumn 2: This 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 Robins 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 practice 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

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

I am very much looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing the progress the Robins can make.

Daisy Palmer
Class Teacher