

**Birch Wood Area Special
school
Curriculum Newsletter
Class The Yard
Term Autumn 2025**



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Yard and would like to share with you all that students will be doing during the Autumn term. As we support your child in continuing to develop their love of learning whilst making great progress across the curriculum. The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions with particular focus on reading, 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). We will also be consistently referring 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		
Autumn Term 1	Number	Place Value and 4 operations
Autumn Term 2	Money	Handling money, taking part in the Rickshaw Challenge
English		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	The House with Chicken Legs	Students will be reading the book as a group a chapter at a time, whilst completing predictions and chapter summaries. Students will then be further discussing and writing about the context of the story, themes, characters and settings; analysing quotations; using PEEL; writing diary entries; retelling myths; Day of the Dead; religious beliefs about death and the afterlife.
Reading		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Developing a love of reading	Throughout the whole year in the Yard, 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		
Autumn Term 1	Solids, Liquids, Gases. Forces.	Students will be revisiting the particle theory of solids, liquids and gasses, building on this knowledge and discussing kinetic and thermal energy levels. Students will have the opportunity to complete a range of practical experiments in the laboratory and be learning how to write up a scientific experiment. Students will also have the opportunity to produce their own News Cast about Issac Newton and have a brief overview of different types of forces.

Autumn Term 2	Cells, Diffusion and solutions	Students will be looking at different types of specialised cells; animal, plant, root hair, sperm, egg, and red blood cell. They will have the opportunity to use microscopes and go on to use their experimental skills learnt in Autumn Term 1 to be able to carry out experiments involving forming and separating solutions.
Humanities		
Autumn Term 1	Geography 'Our Local Area' (fieldwork)	Explore and develop knowledge about the world, starting with the immediate environment and building. Students will explore the local area using first-hand observation and experience to enhance their awareness along with essential map skills and fieldwork.
Autumn Term 2	Geography Ecosystem	Explore the natural environment including rainforests, arctic tundra and deserts. It includes key concepts that involve both human and physical elements as well as threats to our planet.
ICT		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Developing an Interactive Product in PowerPoint	create buttons, add URLs, Images, Videos, Audio, Transitions, Animations and tables and charts.
PE		
Autumn Term 1	OAA/Team Building Team Games (Capture the Flag)	We will do an Initial movement assessment made by teacher. We will then work on establishing rules and routines in sport and teach fundamental movement and communication skills. As we play team games we will work on our skills to negotiate space, embed rules and develop communication within team games.
Autumn Term 2	Invasion Games Functional Movement (Movement to music)	We will be working on Ball skills (Throwing, catching, rolling etc). And teamwork skills including Negotiating space and embedding rules. We will be Teaching fundamental movement through space – focus on balance, co-ordination and rhythmic movement. We will develop awareness of personal space and boundaries of touch.
Wellbeing and Self-Regulation		
Autumn Term 1	Friendship	Students will explore what it is to be a good friend and complete a range of tasks and activities to practice these skills in communication, sharing, tolerance and understanding.
Autumn Term 2	Wellbeing and Self-Regulation	Be Kind and Be Respectful: Students will begin to follow the Ashton House Wellbeing and Self-Regulation Ashton House Curriculum, starting with explore a range of activities that encourage regulation and enable students to be 'ready to learn' (Green Zone). Polite Greetings and Positive Goodbyes. Teach Kindness and Explore Compliments-
Art/Design/Food Rotation		
Autumn Term 1	Design	Home Sweet Home – investigate and explore features of a house and designing and making a porotype open house template design.
Autumn Term 2	Art	Inspired by Nature part 1 Creatures on land

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Creative Arts and Languages Rotation		
Autumn Term 1	British Sign Language	Rotation 1 Learning how to sign the alphabet, name, birthday and simple greetings.
Autumn Term 2	Drama	Development of Drama skills Revisiting and exploring new drama techniques to build upon student's toolkits and knowledge.
Music		
Autumn Term 1 and 2	Chromanotes	Musical motifs, colours, rhythms sing and stop starts. Star Wars, Imperial Music, percussion, call and response
Autumn Term 1 and 2	OT Group Session	In the first half term we will be working with our new occupational therapist Evie, specifically concentrating on fine motor skills, this is with a view to continue to support our young people to develop skills relating to handwriting. We will then move towards gross motor skills all the while incorporating sensory circuits to help our young people to regulate.

Possible Activities That Could be Done at Home to Support Learning

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 food shopping and buying multiply examples. 'Hit the Button' is

Wellbeing and Self-Regulation: Encourage your child to identify..... zones of regulation

Food: Include your child in cooking activities so that they can take part in collecting ingredients during food shopping

PE: Playing active games together such as catch, balancing activities or football.

Preparation for the Future: Discuss and practice independence skills, such as personal health brushing teeth, tidying your bedroom, making your own drink/ simple snack and tying your shoelaces.

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- Tues- Wed

Hannah Jackson

Teaching in class Wed- Thu- Fri