

**Birch Wood Area Special  
school  
Curriculum Newsletter  
Class The Yard  
Term Summer 2026**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after Easter and a successfully fun filled residential trip to the Summer term. We would like to again share with you what is planned throughout the curriculum this term and share how we will continue support your child to further develop their love of learning whilst making fantastic progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on reading and phonics where required. The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, 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, rebound therapy, speech and language sessions, ELSA therapy and art therapy.

Maths		
Summer Term 1 & 2 with Joanna	Statistics	Students will look at handling data as a tally chart and pictogram. They will then move on to drawing their own line graphs, gaining lots of practice in extrapolating data and answering questions based on real life scenarios. Some students will move on to looking at pie charts in more detail and begin to draw them from their own data.
Summer Term 1 & 2 with Hannah	Geometry	Space, shape and measure; Students will be recapping 2D and 3D shapes using mathematical language such as vertices and indices. Students will go on to look at different units of measuring length and weight, where they will be able to estimate values and measure accuracy. Some students will move onto calculating areas and volumes of simple shapes.
English		
Summer Term 1 & 2	Roald Dahl's 'Matilda'	As a class group students will be reading 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. Along-side this reading they will be given the opportunity to study humorous story writing; humorous poetry; complete character studies and comparisons. They will also write some simple instructions and discuss how text can be adapted into play scripts. Students will also have a weekly English session focused on grammar.
Reading		
Summer Term 1 & 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. Deepening their understanding we will focus on a few words per week, using dictionaries to look at meanings and context for use. During the week we will also look at a news story, reading it together, exploring the vocabulary and our feelings and thoughts on the story.

Science		
Summer Term 1	The Human Skeleton, Joints and Muscles	Students will be learning about the structure of the human body and the need for a skeleton for support, movement, protections and where blood cells are made. They will go on to name bones scientifically and look at how they work with muscles to allow for movement.
Summer Term 2	Heating and Cooling and the Ecosystem	Students will be further developing their previous work on scientific enquiry looking at changes of matter in more detail. Students will discuss how physical changes can be described scientifically on a molecular level. Students will then briefly look further at ecosystems and how they interlink.
PSHE		
Summer Term 1	Mental Wellbeing, Physical Activity	Students will be looking at how we can support our mental wellbeing and strategies to support ourselves when we may be struggling. We will also investigate how physical wellbeing can link in with how we are feeling mentally.
Summer Term 2	Managing Online Information	We will explore the topic of online information, thinking about what we may or may not want to share. We will look at fake news and how we can find reliable sources of information.
Humanities		
Summer Term 1 & 2	History	<b>The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain</b> Explore the spread of the Roman Empire out of Italy and across large parts of Europe, parts of North Africa and West Asia. Discover how Britain changed after the invasion and conquest by the Roman Army.
RE		
Summer Term 1 & 2	Judaism	Students will be exploring the religion of Judaism. To understand the core beliefs and values of the religion and place of worship.
ICT		
Summer Term 1	Micro bit Hardware	Students will be exploring clipping blocks in a program and be able to predict what will happen while making connections with programming interfaces.
Summer Term 2	Computer Networks	Students will begin to develop their knowledge and understanding of networks. They will then be able to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. This work will then link back to previous work about how to keep safe online.
PE		
Summer Term 1	Striking and Fielding	Comp: Continued development of fundamental movement skills specifically that of striking and fielding. Development of co-operational play and developing game play tactics.

**Birch Wood Area Special  
school  
Curriculum Newsletter  
Class The Yard  
Term Summer 2026**



Summer Term 2	Functional Movement (Athletics/ Sports Day)	To practice/replicate events that will be performed on Sports Day/Athletic events or festivals. Develop overall athletic ability across the disciplines of run, jump & throw. Teaching Fundamental movement skills (e.g. movement through space, jump, throw, balance and co-ordination), Further establishing rules and routines Development of co-operational competition.
<b>Wellbeing and Self-Regulation</b>		
Summer Term 1	Be Safe Exploring the Zones of regulation	Being kind to yourself and others, recognise and understand times of struggle and understand that it is ok. Develop tools to support themselves and others to be safe.
Summer Term 2		We will also recap the zones of regulation, recovering emotional ranges and tools to support.
<b>Art/Design/Food Rotation</b>		
Summer Term 1	Art	Inspired by Nature part 2 Creatures under the sea
Summer Term 2	Food	Pupils will be reviewing and revisiting Health and Safety Cooking Skills, methods, and food technology vocabulary.
<b>Creative Arts and Languages Rotation</b>		
Summer Term 1	Drama – The Seven Deadly Sins	In this scheme of learning the students will identify the 7 deadly sins and create roleplays to depict some of them and the possible consequences. The techniques they will use to explore this scheme will be – Discussion. Role-play, Freeze-frames, Thought-tracking, Conscience tunnel, Performance, Self and Peer evaluation.
Summer Term 2	Dance – Moving Together	Moving Together Showcase- Students will be learning new dance routines that will be used in the Moving Together showcase at the Curve Theatre.
<b>Music</b>		
Summer Term 1	Festivals	Students will be completing their own mini research projects on a music festival of their choice.
Summer Term 2	Singing	Students will be learning a song, exploring the expression within the lyrics and sign along with it.

### Possible Things you could do at home

**Literacy:** Read regularly with your child to support their understanding of speaking and listening.

**Maths:** Encourage your child to develop their multiplication skills using practical examples at home, such as whilst buying multiple items when out food shopping, if you search hit the button on the internet you will find a game we use in school that supports their multiplication understanding.

**PSHE:** Encourage your child to identify at least 1 positive thing that they have experienced at the end of every day. Model this by sharing your own positive thing and describe how it made you feel and why. The zones of regulation is a great way to support this.

**Cookery:** Include your child in cooking activities that they can take part in. Ask them to collect different ingredients during a food shop or from the cupboards at home, discuss different tastes over meal times. Maybe grow your own food at home?

**PE:** Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities).

**Preparation for Adulthood:** Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth, tidying your room, making your own drink and tying your laces. Discuss the importance of these activities and how they all take practice.

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- Tuesday

*Hannah Jackson*

Teaching in class Wed-Thu-Fri

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Mon – Tues - Wed)

The Treehouse Class Teacher (Thurs – Friday)