

Birch Wood Area Special school
EYFS and KS1 – 1SB and 1RS
Curriculum Information
Autumn term



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to welcome you in school! We are excited to share with you the topics and units of work being covered by our Class this term, so that you can talk to your children about their lessons and support them with activities. In the first few weeks we will primarily be focusing on student's well-being and re-adjustment into school, settling them gently into school life and ensuring they are happy to start their routine at school. We will be liaising closely with you all to discuss any areas of concern or of success during the school closure. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy half term and we hope that the children will enjoy it.

My Communication

Communication is taught throughout the week, both informally and through taught sessions. We encourage children to communicate through their preferred means which could include pictures, communication devices, spoken sounds and words and Makaton. Children are given opportunities to make choices and express preferences frequently. All children will take part in small group or individual communication sessions as indicated in their health care plans.

Early Reading and Phonics

On Monday's we'll be exploring sounds and letters using all of our senses.

Some of our learners are becoming aware of the sounds around them, as well as being able to identify and differentiate between them. They will learn to attend to different sounds and children will be encouraged to imitate and create sounds through play and music.

Some children will be learning phase 1 sounds set 1 and 2 (m,a,s,d,t). They will be encouraged to recognise graphemes (sound pictures) and phonemes (sounds attached them).

A few learners will be practicing how to recognise the first sound in words and will be supported to blend phase one sounds, in line with the Read Write Inc. guidance. These skills are consolidated throughout the week. This term the focus stories and texts linked to afternoon themes will be; **All About Me**.

Mark Making and Writing

On Thursday we'll be exploring mark making and early writing in response to pictures, songs and stories. This includes physical development opportunities for children to develop the motor skills needed to make marks and to write. At least once a term we will do Write Dance which includes large gross motor movements to music.

My Thinking

The EYFS/KS1 environment provides opportunities for children to problem solve, compare, sort and explore mathematical skills such as number, shape, space and measure. This is facilitated throughout the week through a combination of pupil led play, small groups and 1:1 sessions led by an adult.

On Wednesday's the focus is on number, including early calculations for some pupils. We will work on consolidating recognition of numbers up to 3, 5 or 10 but extending where we need to, as well as experiencing quantity and the concepts of more and less in a tactile way. Some pupils will be learning to count objects to match numbers. A few pupils will be becoming familiar with add and take away through games and more formal paired work. Where possible maths reflects the theme for the week, e.g. buying three toys at the toy shop. My Thinking on Friday will be looking at shapes and exploring all the different shapes in real day life.

Themes – Areas Of Learning

Themes are set up to reflect areas of learning including Expressive Arts, Understanding Of The World (Including technology, humanities and scientific enquiry), Personal Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development as well as Communication and Thinking skills. Each learning station focusses on a

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different skill within those areas and includes sensory and tactile resources to explore.

Theme	Brief synopsis
25/08/21 - 13/09/21 All About Me	Welcome to Birch Wood and hello to new friends! For four weeks, we will be learning about ourselves and our new friends, explore what it means to belong by looking at our own families, our class, and finally, the whole school. We will play games in small groups and pairs to learn how to get along together, as well as singing songs that reflect this sense of belonging.
20/09/21 – 11/10/21 Food	We will be learning about Healthy and Unhealthy foods and how to look after ourselves. We will be exploring the textures, tastes and smells of new foods. We will develop independent living skills by learning to prepare simple healthy snacks and foods as well as exploring our how exercise can help us to stay healthy.

Things that you could do at home:

Sing familiar rhymes about our bodies e.g. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and for food e.g. Hot Cross Buns. Join in with play and interaction wherever possible. Mirror children's play to make connections at their own level. Share stories together, take opportunities to count aloud and recognise shapes in the environment. Explore the outdoors in all weathers where possible and encourage curiosity

Here are a few website that may help to support your child's learning:

www.helpkidzlearn.com,
 www.cbeebies.co.uk,
 www.bbc.co.uk/schools,
 www.senictsoftware.com