

Birch Wood Area Special school  
**Class: The Burrow**  
 Curriculum Information



Dear Parents and Carers,

After a fantastic first few weeks I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school and thank-you all so much for making me feel so welcome in The Burrow. 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 you all even better.

The curriculum focuses on both academic and therapeutic sessions, which aim to engage and inspire students to reach their potential academically, whilst also prioritising individualised targets linked to their mental health and wellbeing alongside Educational Health Care Plans.

As well as the information detailed below, students will have access to the Immersive room and soft play. Some students will take part in specialist programmes such as body awareness, story massage, Tacpac, dance massage, music therapy, rebound therapy, Lego therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language and Occupational therapy depending on their individual needs.

We also look forward to welcoming Daisy, the provision therapy dog, who will visit The Burrow on a regular basis.

Termly Topic Theme		
Autumn Term 1	Around the World	Introducing the lesser-known wonders from Around the World.
Autumn Term 2	Monsters and Mythical Creatures	Learning the stories of Monsters and Creatures of Myths and Legends.
English		
Autumn Term 1	Grammar and Spelling	Students will be investigating the Hidden Wonders of the world with an added focus on spelling, grammar, phonics and the function of specific word types, such as nouns, verbs and adjectives.
Autumn Term 2	Creative writing	Students will be introduced to The Dragon Machine story. They will learn the story by creating their own story maps.  They will use this as a basis to develop characters, dilemmas and resolutions through the story mountain method.
Maths		
Autumn Term 1	Measurement	Students will develop their ability to use a variety of measuring devices whilst developing estimating, accuracy and conversion skills.

Birch Wood Area Special school

**Class: The Burrow**

Curriculum Information

*'Where a love of learning grows'*



**Birch Wood  
School**

Autumn Term 2	Calculation	Students will develop their calculation skills in all four functions. The students will also be introduced to our "Sumdog" website package that has previously been trialled at Birch Wood Vale. The package enables us to assess students' progress and areas to develop. This will be available for children and parents to use at home.
<b>Science</b>		
Autumn Term 1	Scientific Methods	To complement our Measuring topic in Maths, in Science we will be learning how to use and take measurements using a range of scientific equipment.
Autumn Term 2	Scientific skills	Recording data and results using a variety of methods including scientific diagrams and labels, bar and line graphs.
<b>Preparation for Adulthood</b>		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Life skills and independence	Students will develop their confidence and independence whilst working towards their individualised EHCP targets.
<b>Humanities</b>		
Autumn Term 1	Geography - Around the World	Students will develop their knowledge of land mass, continents, oceans and climates.
Autumn Term 2	History	Students will learn stories of historical mythical creatures and in some cases the countries they have an association with.
<b>PSHCE</b>		
Autumn Term 1	Self-regulation and resilience	Students will further develop their understanding about thoughts and emotions, both positive and negative. The lessons centre around themes such as the links between our thoughts, feelings and emotions, making good choices and mindfulness and applying a growth mindset approach to life.
Autumn Term 2	Self-confidence and the impact of the media	Students will explore the importance of being able to identify their strengths and achievements as well as help them to recognise different emotions they experience. Students will also have an opportunity to explore the influence of the media (including social media) in how we view ourselves and analyse the reality of these messages. Students will also develop their understanding on how to make things right when we make mistakes, both in person or online, and the importance of learning from these.

Birch Wood Area Special school

**Class: The Burrow**

Curriculum Information

*'Where a love of learning grows'*



**Birch Wood  
School**

STEM		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students will take part in a range of activities designed to inspire and develop innovation, skill and creativity.
Cookery		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Breakfast and Lunch Meals	Students will be following recipes to make breakfast dishes in Autumn 1 and Lunch meals in Autumn 2, which they can practise and make at home for the family.
PE		
Autumn Term 1	Team Games	This year Joe Lorrیمان will teach P.E. Students will develop their teamwork and problem solving skills by taking part in team ball games.
Autumn Term 2	Health Related Fitness	Students will develop their understanding of health related fitness whilst taking part in different fitness tests/activities.
Outdoor Education		
Autumn Term 1	Map Reading and Navigation	To coincide with our Around the World topic, students will develop their mathematical knowledge of direction and coordinates, by learning how to map read and plot routes.
Autumn Term 2	Outdoor Craft	Students will develop their creative skills by using natural materials and techniques from around the world, culminating in a Mandala project.
Intervention		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Zones of Regulation	Using a cognitive behaviour approach, students will develop further understanding of different emotion states called "zones". Students will also learn how to adjust pre-agreed strategies to stay in a zone or move from one to another. Students explore more calming techniques, cognitive strategies, and sensory supports so they will have a toolbox of methods to use to move between zones.

Birch Wood Area Special school

**Class: The Burrow**

Curriculum Information

*'Where a love of learning grows'*



**Birch Wood  
School**

Community Visit		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Local Parks	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding on how to keep themselves safe whilst in the local community. If restrictions allow, students will then have the opportunity to experience the local community of Melton whilst gaining practical experiences of how to self-regulate and be safe in the community.
Communication Games		
Autumn Term 1 & 2	Games	Students will develop their understanding of the rules of friendship and social communication through playing different games.
Hydro therapy pool		
Autumn term 1 & 2	Swimming	Your child will take part in weekly swimming sessions. These sessions will focus on water confidence, water safety, sensory regulation, following self-care routines and peer interactions.

**Things that you could do at home:**

Resources to support your child's learning throughout the curriculum at home will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams.

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

**Maths:** Encourage your child to use the four calculation functions where appropriate.

**PSHCE:** Encourage your child to identify their favourite part of the day.

**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. Breakfast/Lunch meal information will be forwarded to you. Perhaps your child can recreate the dishes they learn in school for the family at home.

**PE:** Play games together (football, catch, balancing activities). Take your child swimming if you can as well.

**Preparation for Adulthood:** Practise independence skills such as brushing teeth/hair, tidying rooms, making your own drink and tying your laces.

I am pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Thank you and for those of you I haven't met in person yet, I look forward to seeing you at Parents evening.

Lisa, Jen, Carly, Sue and Tom.

The Burrow team