



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a wonderful holiday! We are excited to share with you the topics we will be exploring in 2DB this spring term. We will continue to use Kinteract as our method of recording observations of your child as they work towards their learning intentions. If you have not yet managed to access Kinteract please let us know and we will pass this onto our IT support.

Our topics this term will be:

	"Shine"
Spring term (first half)	<p>This half term our topic will be "Shine". We will focus on lots of different elements of this theme; exploring light and dark and how we all shine as individuals! We will be focusing on the story of "Zog", the fire-breathing dragon who attends dragon school. We will have sensory story sessions exploring all of the different sounds, smells, sights and textures related to the little fire breathing dragon and his adventures. We will also be carrying out write dance sessions, where each week we will focus on different elements of the story, allowing pupils to communicate their own colour choices and to mark make independently. Our dance massage sessions, where we move our bodies and develop better body awareness, will introduce music from different genres, all themed around the topic of "Shine". There will be lots of opportunity to develop our visual attention and cause and effect skills, using a variety of different lights and switches to control our multi-sensory experiences. This half term we will also be going on sensory journeys! We will explore lights in lots of different contexts, from festivals and discos, to firework displays and celebrations, all set to different pieces of music.</p>
Spring term (second half)	<p style="text-align: center;">"Feeling hot, hot, hot!"</p> <p>In the second half of the Spring term, we will be "Feeling hot, hot, hot!" We will be exploring different temperatures as well as countries around the world where the weather is very hot. We will do lots of exploration of hot and cold and communicating our preferences in lots of different contexts. We will be utilising our wonderful immersive room to experience being in different hot environments, such as deserts and beaches. Our write dance sessions will focus on the colours and smells of these cultures, using scented paints and our dance massage sessions will incorporate music linked to the theme too.</p>

Our class will continue to follow the Engagement Curriculum. This is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. The five key areas of the Engagement Curriculum are "My Communication", "My Thinking", "My Movement", "Myself" and "My Enrichment". See the table below for more details on each area.

My Communication

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing the ability of our pupils to be able to communicate, interact and to make their needs known. Whilst everything we do on a daily basis feeds into this, there are specific therapies and sessions which help us to develop these key communication skills. Our classroom is a total communication environment where we use Makaton signing, objects or reference and photos/symbols to help make choices. We carry out communication sessions on a daily basis such as intensive interaction, story massage, sensory stories, sensory drama, Tac-Pac, Dance Massage, Write Dance and communication games.

My Thinking

This area of the curriculum focuses on developing our pupils' attention and anticipation skills and awareness of cause and effect in their environment. It also promotes problem solving skills and making choices. Daily sessions within class include sensory Good Morning sessions, sensory cooking, daily sensory exploration, lots of messy, cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room.

My Movement

Movement is an important part of the curriculum in 2DB. We have weekly PE sessions where we focus on developing pupil's movement needs. This half term we will be exploring fundamental movement patterns such as, jumping, climbing and balancing. These focuses aim to develop student's kinaesthetic awareness, challenge their physical abilities and develop communication with others. We ensure that our sessions are active for our young people in order to promote their sensory regulation. We try to encourage them to communicate their sensory needs us through their bodily movements and showing us what they need throughout the day.

Myself

This area of the curriculum focuses on empowering our pupils, giving them every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and independence. We incorporate opportunities to work on independence skills throughout the school day in areas such as eating and drinking, dressing and personal care needs e.g. toileting and washing. This will look different for each pupil, but the goal is to give every opportunity to increase independence and to make choices about their daily routines. Part of this curriculum also focuses on pupils exploring their own preferences and having a greater awareness of their own bodies and the space around them.

As a part of our RSE curriculum and after speaking to several parents, we will continue with our Teeth activities! This seems to be important opportunity for our young people to explore toothpaste, tooth brushes and personal care through messy play and plenty of fun!

My Enrichment

This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies and activities which help our pupils to develop in all of the other areas of the Engagement curriculum. In class, we will have sensory cooking and art activities as well as music and movement sessions.

If you have any questions, please email me us beekenk@birchwoodschool.co.uk for Kirsty or Pia on delucchip@birchwoodschool.co.uk. We are always pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Many thanks and we all look forward to an exciting term!

Kirsty Beeken and Pia Delucchi