

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class 2HOM
 Spring (2022)
 Curriculum Information



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. We are excited to share with you the topics we will be exploring and the therapies your child will be accessing in 2HOM 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 me know and I will pass this onto our IT support.

Our topics this term will be:

<p>Spring term (first half)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Shine”</p> <p>This half term our topic we be “Shine”. We will focusing 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 to 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. To celebrate the end of this topic we will have a medieval themed “Zog” day, with dragons, knights, princesses (who are doctors of course!) and lots of wonderful, fun learning opportunities! More details of this will be shared with you soon.</p>
<p>Spring term (second half)</p>	<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 exploring different temperatures as well as countries around the world where the weather is very hot. Through sensory stories and sensory journeys, we will visit places such as Greece, Australia and Thailand, exploring the smells, tastes, sounds and traditions of those countries. We will do lots of exploration of hot and cold, 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. At the end of the topic we will have a celebration day...more details on this will be shared with you after the February half term break.</p>

Our class will be continue to follow the Engagement Curriculum. This is an extremely pupil centred and individualised curriculum focusing on five key areas, incorporating essential therapies. Much of our curriculum is delivered through sensory exploration; as such, I'd like to reassure you that all pupils will have their own packs of sensory resources which will be used only by them and will be washed or cleaned with antibacterial spray/wipes after each use. 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.

<p>My Communication</p>
<p>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, body signing, personalised objects or reference, communication switches 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.</p>
<p>My Thinking</p>
<p>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 Sensology (Hello Senses), Eye Gaze technology, sensory cooking, resonance board work, switch toy work, latch switch control sessions, cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard and in our immersive room.</p>
<p>My Movement</p>
<p>Movement is a huge part of the curriculum in 2HOM. On a daily basis we follow our pupil's physiotherapy and positioning programmes, incorporating these into daily activities. Each child has a hydrotherapy programme and will access the hydro pool. We also have weekly Rebound Therapy sessions for each child on our trampoline with our trained therapist Di. Every Thursday afternoon we have a session in the hall, where we will work on pupil's MATP (motor activity training programme) targets. These targets focus on developing pupil's movement needs.</p> <p>As I mentioned in the last curriculum newsletter, I am now a MOVE advanced skills practitioner. The MOVE Programme is an activity-based practice that enables young people with physical additional needs to gain independent movement. It uses the combined approach of education, therapy and family knowledge to teach the skills of sitting, standing, walking and transitioning between. The aim of the MOVE Programme is to offer these movement opportunities to young people with complex physical additional needs, opening up and transforming the world around them, creating an accessible, interesting and educational world full of opportunity and choice.</p> <p>I will be inviting parents for assessment meetings for this where applicable this term. If you have any questions, please do contact me about this.</p>
<p>Myself</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>As a part of our RSE curriculum, we will be creating sensory sessions based on the themes of personal care, friendships and relationships and body awareness. We will also have an overarching focus on consent, ensuring that our young people understand that they always have a choice to opt in or out of touch-based activities. We also seek to give pupils greater independence with their personal care, from pupils choosing who carries out their personal care to independent toileting.</p>
<p>My Enrichment</p>

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This area encompasses lots of different motivating therapies and activities, many carried out by therapist, which help our pupils to develop in all of the other areas of the Engagement curriculum. Some pupils will have access to Music Therapy, Pet Therapy and Horse Riding in accordance with their EHCPs. In class, we will have sensory cooking and art activities as well as music and movement sessions. Throughout the year we usually have educational trips linked to our class topics as well as visiting theatre groups such as Bamboozle Theatre Company, who specialise in PMLD sensory drama experiences. This will obviously be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions and the safety of our CEV pupils.

If you have any questions, please email me on omarah@birchwoodschool.co.uk. I am available Monday - Friday from 8:30am until 6pm. I am 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!

Hannah O'Mara