

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class: Shine 3JD
 Spring 2022
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to spring Term 2022. Please find below a summary of the topics and units we hope to be working on in Class 'Shine 3JD' this term. We will be following a Space theme across as many subjects as possible and hope to include a visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester towards the end of the Spring term. At the bottom of this letter, there are ideas that you could share with your child at home. Unfortunately horse riding and swimming at the Leisure Centre have been postponed due to Covid-19 related restrictions. We will let you know when we are able to resume horse riding and we hope to begin swimming at the Leisure Centre in February, all being well. This may result in changes to the order in which we introduce some subjects in Spring 1 and 2.

Our topic this term will be: **The Earth and Beyond**

Spring Term 1	The Earth and Beyond part 1 This topic will involve integrating our science themed topic with other lessons across the curriculum. For example we will explore space themed fiction and science non-fiction in literacy, British astronauts and explorers in History, art themed work on the Earth, moon and sun and exploring themes from Oliver Jeffers book 'Here we are' along with 'rights and choices' in PSHEC.
Spring Term 2	The Earth and Beyond part 2 We will continue our topic with more of a focus on the wider solar system. This will inspire our look at World Music, Exploring England in Geography, space poetry and space themed board games in Design Technology.

Our class are following a combination of Engagement/Independence Curricula. The overlap in pathways enables us to personalise the learning for the pupils in our class. The engagement pathway 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". The Independence Curriculum offers a similar level of personalisation but includes discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths and science.

My Communication – Reading, Literacy and Phonics

Pupils will experience a multi-sensory approach to literacy including the use of movement, music, songs, sensory stories and drama. Pupils will work on letter recognition and formation, alphabet skills, spelling, reading, grammar, speaking and listening skills according to their ability and SEN. Pupils will continue to develop their sentence and early story writing skills. Our main text will be Treasure Planet as we continue to explore different types of fiction. We will also be finding out about non-fiction and using a variety of texts to find out more about the Earth and Space.

My Thinking - Maths and Science

In maths, pupils will be learning about the number operations involving adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing units and tens & units. They will also be exploring 2D shapes and measuring in kg and ml. We will look at e-safety, data and an introduction to spreadsheets in ICT.
 In Science, pupils will experience learning about the Earth and sky, day and night and light sources, as well as the consequences of the relative movement between the Sun, the Moon and the Earth in the context of the Solar System. In part 2 of this topic, they will learn about shadows, direction and the wider Solar System.

My Movement - PE

In Physical Education lessons, pupils will be taking part in fundamental movement patterns - (jumping, climbing and balance). These focuses aim to develop students' kinaesthetic awareness, challenge their physical abilities and develop communication with others. After half term, pupils will be learning Net Games (sitting down volleyball. Table Cricket, Tchouck ball). These focuses aim to develop students' knowledge and implementation of good sportsmanship, communication and teamwork as well as gaining an understanding of game rules/ tactics.

Myself - PSHE

In PSHE pupils will be learning about personal hygiene, puberty and emotions. They will be encouraged to:

- develop an awareness of the right to choose
- develop an awareness of the rights of others
- have the opportunity to make choices
- recognise that choice may affect others
- take responsibility for the choices they make

We will also explore emotional wellbeing with themes from 'Here I Am' by Oliver Jeffers.

My Enrichment

Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in horse riding sessions (in limited numbers) and swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre. There will be outdoor learning activities including sowing seeds, planting bulbs and taking care of our raised beds and container garden. An Educational Visit to the Space Centre will be organised subject to covid-19 restrictions. Specialist rooms and activities are available including the cookery room, soft play, immersive room and Rebound Therapy.

Things you could do at home

My Communication: share fiction and non-fiction books with your child to promote enjoyment of reading and finding out about things.

My Thinking: use numbers in everyday life e.g. counting items at home, looking at the clock, sharing out items, using ICT and money in shops. Notice the sky at different times of day and changes in the moon at night.

My Thinking: play board games with your child home to stimulate their imagination for our Design Technology topic.

If you are unsure about anything in this letter, please email me on DayeJ@birchwoodschoo.co.uk

I will do my best to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term and hope that your child will enjoy it.

With kind regards

Janet Daye

3JD Class Teacher