

Birch Wood Area Special school

Class: The Nest

Spring 2022

Curriculum Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

After what sounds to have been a fantastic Christmas Holiday for all the Nest students, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school ready for another term of learning and share with you the topics and units of work being covered throughout the spring term in The Nest. I am looking forward to another brilliant term of developing a love of learning.

Our class are following the *Aspire Pathway*. This means they are learning subject specific content which is personalised to their strengths and needs. The table below gives an outline of topics, content, knowledge and skills that we will be looking at over the next term. In addition to this, and dependent on individual need, the pupils in our class also have access to music therapy, rebound therapy, lego therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language and Occupational therapy sessions.

Maths		
Spring Term 1	Geometry: Shape Number: Place Value Number: Addition and Subtraction	Geometry: Students will develop their knowledge and understanding 2D and 3D shapes. Number: Students will develop my knowledge and confidence of number by counting forwards and backwards and in steps. Using column method for addition and subtraction, and knowing 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 times tables. Using HTU for place value.
Spring Term 2	Measurement: Length and height Measurement: Weight and Volume	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of using a ruler, angles, estimating weight and length and choosing appropriate units.
English		
Spring Term 1	Understanding Fiction: Reading and understanding the story "The Great Kapok Tree"	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of fiction by reading and engaging in activities about the book The Great Kapok tree.
Spring Term 2	Writing non-Fiction: Weather reporters	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding writing non-fiction.
Reading		
Spring Term 1	To develop a love of reading: The Great Kapok Tree	Students will engage with different daily stories to develop a love of reading and develop curiosity and imagination.
Spring Term 2	To develop a love of reading: Numenia and the Hurricane Captain Toby	

PSHCE		
Spring Term 1	Zones of regulation: Different Perspectives	Using a cognitive behaviour approach, students will develop their ability to recognise when they are in different states called "zones". Students will also learn how to use strategies to stay in a zone or move from one to another. Students explore calming techniques, cognitive strategies, and sensory supports so they will have a toolbox of methods to use to move between zones. Students will develop an understanding of their own sensory system.
Spring Term 2	Zones of regulation: Expected and unexpected behaviour	
RSE		
Spring Term 1 and 2	Our Community	Students will develop their knowledge and understanding about their community by covering topics such as thinking about others, making rules, facilities in our local community, road safety
Science		
Spring Term 1	Classifying animals	Students will develop their scientific understanding by Identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, Identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and describing and comparing the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, including pets).
Spring Term 2	Seasonal Changes	Students will develop their scientific understanding by observing changes across the four seasons and describing weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.
Calligraphy and Phonics		
Spring Term 1 and 2	Set 1-3 sounds and a-z Letter formation	Students will develop their understanding of different sounds and how we blend these to create and spell different cvc and complex words. Students will develop their handwriting to write these letters and sounds learnt in phonics.
Art and design		
Spring Term 1	Rainforest Art	This half term students will develop their creativity by using different materials and art techniques to create their own rainforest.

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Spring Term 2	Weather crafts	This half term we will be exploring how we can create pieces of art out of different material including clay and wood, whilst incorporating the theme of The Weather Machine.
Drama		
Spring Term 1	Rainforest Acting	Students will develop their communication skills through exploring different drama techniques through themed drama activities and games
Spring Term 2	Weather reporting	
Physical Education		
Spring Term 1	Health Related Fitness Challenge Gymnastics (vaulting)/ Parkour Communication; creativity; competence	Students will develop their understanding Gymnastics whilst taking part in different activities such as vaulting and floor work.
Spring Term 2	Net Games Communication; Challenge; Competence Invasion Games Confidence; Competence; Challenge	Students will develop their understanding team work and net games whilst taking part in different activities such as netball, tennis and team games.
Outdoor Education		
Spring Term 1	Orienteering	Students will development their mathematical knowledge of direction and coordination's by learning how to map read.
Spring Term 2	Den building and Camping	Students will development their problem solving skills by learning how to set up appropriate camps in different areas and by using different materials.
Cooking		
Spring Term 1	Developing independent cooking skills: Lunch time recipes	Students will use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare dishes which they could eat for their lunch. Students will develop their reading through following recipes and different cooking skills such as cutting and frying by preparing these dishes.
Geography/History/RE		

Spring Term 1	Geography : The Rainforest	Students will develop their understanding of the location and features of a rainforest.
Spring Term 2	Geography: Weather and seasons	Students will develop their understanding of the weather and seasonal change.
Computing		
Spring Term 1	Word processing	Students will develop their communication skills by writing different documents using Microsoft.
Spring Term 2	Programing toys	Students will develop their mathematical understanding of coding and programming different toys.

Things you could do at home

Maths: Encourage your child to develop their number formation and counting in groups of numbers at home.

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

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

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. Lunchtime recipes will be uploaded to Kinteract for your child to access at home.

PE: Take your child swimming if you can, to develop their water confidence.

PSHE: Encourage your child to share how they are feeling at home. Identifying home self-regulation strategies will help develop their emotional literacy and body awareness.

I look forward to working with you and your child this half term and seeing the progress they make both academically and socially throughout the term.

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on marriottp1@birchwoodschoo.co.uk. I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child.

Poppy Marriott
Class teacher