

Birch Wood Area Special school

**Class: The Treehouse**

Curriculum Information

*'Where a love of learning grows'*



**Birch Wood  
School**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the Treehouse we are focusing on supporting the students to prepare for the next stages of their learning and the transitions eventually to Ashton House. We have developed a timetable that I hope gives the students lots of chances to learn in different ways and through a wide range of subject specialists. This term we are going to continue accessing the design and technology suite to continue the amazing work over the last term.

As always we work hard to make sure that the students mental, social and emotional health is at the forefront of our teaching and learning and will endeavour to work hard with all parents and guardians to create a community feel.

### English/ Literacy

Topics:

Spring term 1 - Inventions that changed the world

Spring term 2 - The Blue Abyss

In the Spring term we will be focusing on the topic of "Inventions that changed the world." Through this topic we will engage in all strands of the English curriculum. Students will participate in reading comprehension, focus on a wide range of texts and non-fiction/ fiction, elements of writing alongside speaking and listening will be carried out through a range of different methods to ensure that students are learning and developing. English will be taught specifically over two sessions with on the week whilst students will have access to a cross curricular approach of learning where the English strands will be accessed in different sessions.

For the first half term our focus will be on Inventions that changed the world where several texts will be looked at. For the second half term the focus will be on "The Blue Abyss."

### Mathematics

The Treehouse will be welcoming Lisa Goddard in the classroom to teach mathematics. 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 parents to use at home with their children.

### Science

This academic year we are welcoming Michelle Walker into the Treehouse classroom. The focus of science this term will be on waves focusing on types of wave, light and sounds. We have two sessions a week one focusing on theory and one on experiments to ensure a wide depth of knowledge and experiences can be supported in the lessons.

The Arts

Music, Drama, Art

Focusing on the topic of "Inventions that changed the world" and "The Blue Abyss" students will be given

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		<p>opportunities for the first term to take part in regular art, music and drama sessions. Music will be delivered by Robbie who will use the topic based learning to focus on music from around the world bringing elements of different genres and national anthems to the forefront of the students learning. After the half term Matt will be teaching drama with a focus on the run up to Christmas and the performance.</p> <p>Art this term will focus on "Microscopic World." Pupils will focus on texture and pattern linked to microscopic world. They will work more abstract than in previous projects, whilst also exploring and experimenting with a range of materials. Cross- curricular opportunities linking their work to science and using microscopes/ petri dishes will engage the students to develop creative responses to images of bacteria.</p>
Computing		<p>Deena will be joining us to teach Computing this year. The focus on research, word processing and apps will allow students to become more aware of the use of ICT and the ways in which it can support our learning in the wider community.</p>
PSHCE		<p>Matt will be delivering PSHCE this year through a scheme of work focusing on various subjects such as relationships, health and well being and living in the wider world.</p>
Student Learning Project		<p>The student learning project is always an exciting time for the students as it's their chance to focus on something they would like to learn and the staff support in whatever way they possibly can to ensure there's a step by step process to their learning. We have two sessions as we support the students to take control of their own learning experiences.</p>
Swimming		<p>Each week we will be taking part in a swimming session in the school's hydrotherapy pool. This session will give the students opportunities to work on their confidence in the pool at a varied level and to provide students with the support for mobility/ body awareness.</p>

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Design and Technology		Learners will explore develop design skills and hand tools and basic precision to create a wooden marble maze.
Physical Education		<p><b>Spring Term 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health Related Fitness</li><li>- Gymnastics and Parkour</li></ul> <p>Students will be exploring Challenge, Communication, Creativity and Competence areas of the PE curriculum through the use of HRF and Gymnastics. These focuses aim to develop students kinaesthetic awareness, challenge their physical limits and develop communication with others.</p> <p><b>Spring Term 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Net Games</li><li>- Invasion Games</li></ul> <p>Students will be exploring all 5 areas of the PE curriculum: Challenge, Communication, Creativity, Confidence and Competence. These focuses aim to develop students' knowledge and implementation of good sportsmanship, communication and teamwork as well as gaining an understanding of game tactics.</p>
Cooking		We will be focusing on a wide variety of meals this year in which the students learn from scratch how to prepare. There will be use of kitchen utensils and implements and each student will be supported to create the dish as independently as possible and then if they feel confident enough try the dish giving them chances to try different textures and tastes.

Things that you could do at home:

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

**Maths:** use money with your child when they are out in the community. Give more opportunities to further their understanding and confidence in buying objects, and spending within a budget.

**PSHCE:** Talk about any changes in routine that may be happening in their lives (different class, different school, change of weekend routine etc...)

**Computing:** Play simple directional games together ("move forwards two steps, move left three steps...")

**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.

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

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We are pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Thank you and we all look forward to an exciting term.

The Treehouse team

Robbie, Jeanette, Matt, Julie, Frances, Katie and Kelly