Dolphins class

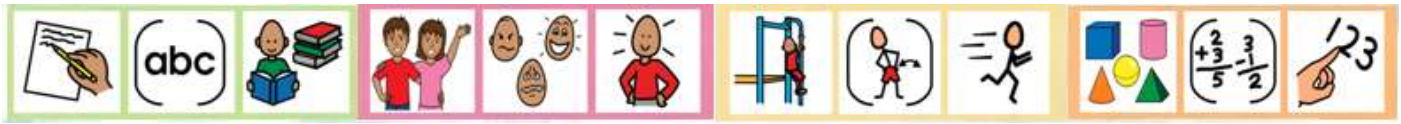
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

We hope you were able to 'Meet the Team' before the holidays. If not, we hope you accessed the cohort profile and 'meet the team' info that was shared on class dojo before the holidays. This shared lots of information about our class.

A reminder of the Z class team is below.

				
Chloe	**Rhona**	**Chandni**	**Shug**	**Kirsty**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Space explorers	
Literacy	*Story focus* – We are focusing on 'The rainbow fish' in order to explore light and colour. We will also be using this book as a way to explore lots of different sea creatures. *Phonics and reading –* We are continuing to focus very heavily on the 'coreword of the week' programme with the dolphins class. I will continue to share the word of the week on Dojo in order for you to practice at home. This term, we will be using the corewords 'big and little' and 'fast and slow' in order to begin having our students describe things. Further, this term we will be carrying out phonics assessments on each child and personalising their curriculum to meet where each child is at. *Fine motor skills and writing-* Mark making, cutting skills and fine motor activities linked to our topic learning. We also practise writing the grapheme representing the 'sound of the week' too, as well as making shapes in different sensory materials.
Maths	*Number-*. We are also continuing to count using number boards. Some students will be continuing to learn to make an amount of something. *Geometry* – We are looking at shape and describing different shapes as well as labelling them. This will be using the corewords 'big and little'.
Understanding the world around me	*Science (Materials)* – we are looking at the natural world and observing changes. We will continue to observe and describe the changes in the branch (you will have seen on dojo) that we keep in the classroom as well as lots of different natural objects. *RE*- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism. *Computing* – Digital art. Exploring tools.

Expressive art and design	*Music* – We follow the 'genre of the week' and enjoy our music session in class, including playing instruments in different ways and noticing the sounds they make. *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* –in art, we are exploring mixed media pictures. This means you will be seeing us create paintings with a lot of paint, collage and dough as well as other materials mixed together.
Physical Education	Football – we will continue to have our sessions with Manchester city. Dance - this term we are still practicing salsa and chacha.
PSHE	Managing feelings
Communication	We adopt a total communication approach. We support pupils in their preferred communication methods, immerse them in text and symbols in their learning environment and work with SaLT on personalised approaches and focus points. Our dojo posts reference the 'core word of the week' and the activities that we share as part of this, so keep an eye on this too, so that you can support at home please. The aim of the core word programme is to support functional language use and application, with transfer of this vocabulary across difference activities.



Other things to know about your child's weekly learning experiences



We will continue to get to know our new young people, developing relationships between staff and pupils. As we navigate our new environments, we will practice transitioning safely to lots of new resource spaces across school. We'll use this as an opportunity to use communication strategies to support these motivational transitions. It's really important please that your child brings a suitable named coat to school each day please. Please can you also send in a named pair of wellies for us to keep here at school so that we can use them on rainy days.

On **Mondays** we learn our new word of the week. This is then shared on class dojo.

On **Tuesdays,** We have music, dance and we enjoy the big soft play room.

On **Wednesdays,** we will be enjoying cooking sessions and we will have a more paint heavy art lesson. Please let the children wear clothes that are easy to wash.

On **Thursdays,** we have a football session so the children can come into school in PE kit (this isn't mandatory).

On **Fridays,** we will have our school assembly to share special themes and celebrate stars of the week. We will also access the multi-sensory room and have integrated play with other classes.

Please ensure you send your child with a named water bottle and snacks for the day. A polite reminder that we are a nut free school. We would really appreciate if you could send a set of spare clothes ***and wellies*** *into school every day too please.*



Ways to help at home



Here are a few ways to support your children in their learning at home in fun and engaging ways.

1. **Literacy Focus Story: ‘**the rainbow fish’ - We will be looking at different colours and light refractions. Please continue to explore this at home. You could take your child to look at the light reflections on a body of water or go on a colour spotting walk.
2. **Maths Focus:** This half term we will be focusing on two areas – number work and shapes, colours and pattern. Please continue the practice at home by asking ‘how many?’ as much as possible and having them answer.
3. **Communication:** Please continue with communication skills at home through develop choice making and following instructions in the best way for your child. It is especially helpful to use the coreword of the week at home as this will help your child develop fluency in using that word.

***** PLEASE NOTE: We will optimise opportunities to include personalised learning moments in line with your child’s EHCP targets, at every opportunity. *****





Keeping in touch



Please look out for daily updates on Class Dojo about what your child has been learning in class. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the class team or cohort lead - Ania Skolik-Wieczniak & Danielle March.

