

Explorers class



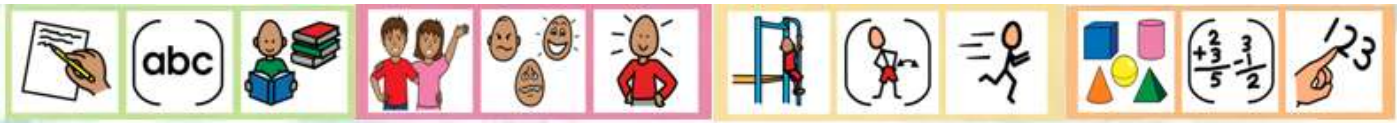
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

We hope you were able to 'Meet the Team' before the holidays. If not, we hope you received the meet the team PPT, sharing lots of information about our class.

A reminder of the Explorers class team is below.

				
Charlotte	**Olivia**	**Angela/Anna**	**Michelle**	**Neethu LSA**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Colour and light	
Literacy	*Story focus* – Wow! said the Owl *Phonics and reading –* we encourage pupils to explore environmental sounds, access books in our provision and respond to symbols in our environment. During our phonics sessions we will focus on rhyme time sessions. *Fine motor skills and writing-* messy mark making sessions using shaving foam, sand and gloop to make marks, patterns and practice letter formation.
Maths	*Number- Addition and subtraction* *Geometry* – Colour shape and pattern.
Understanding the world around me	*Science (Energy and Light)* – Exploring light and dark *RE*- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism. *Computing* – IT sound and vision. Sounds books and jigsaws.
Expressive art and design	*Music* – Follow genre of the week, sensory signing choir/ music therapy with Deborah on a Tuesday morning. *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* –Painting – Colours and materials
Physical Education	Basic movement skills in new resource spaces

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 programs for individuals. Pupils will be exposed to core vocabulary through the core word programme, with the aim of improving their functional language use and application and transference 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.

On **Mondays** we will be going to the little soft room, the multi-sensory room, and the sensory garden. We will use these spaces to support children getting to know their environment and motivate them in their transitions.

On **Tuesdays** we will be going to the little soft room and having a music therapy session with Deborah.

On **Wednesdays** we will be going to the slide play area, the little soft room, the multisensory room and the swing play area.

On **Thursdays** we will be going to the multi-sensory room, the little soft room and the bike track.

On **Fridays** we will have our school assembly to share special themes and celebrate stars of the week. We will also be going to the big soft room.

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 into school and wellies if your child has them.



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: 'Wow! Said the owl'** why not have a listen at home to the sensory story we are listening to in school: *https://youtu.be/r7epI9Z0PFE?si=tbfJVA40tbx_H4QD*

2. **Maths Focus: This half term we will be continuing to focus on the language of numbers 1-5. We will also be exploring colours, shapes and patterns.** Why not see if you

can match coloured objects/toys at home e.g. red/blue cars/bricks. Talk about the shapes of objects e.g. the tv is a rectangle, a plate is a circle. Here are some songs that you might enjoy too:
https://youtu.be/SLZcWGQQsmg?si=tFDQVBoinA_r63md

https://youtu.be/bz3qQ7A50EM?si=reJE0IDjMxE82bg7

3. **Communication**: To support your children with their communication and engagement skills, listen to the rhyme below and encourage your child to join in with the actions. This is a song familiar to them, that we listen to during circle time.

   https://youtu.be/C3c8fzbsfOE?si=idmpJNWrfXxE8w7r

***** PLEASE NOTE: We will optimise all 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, Charlotte Barlow.

