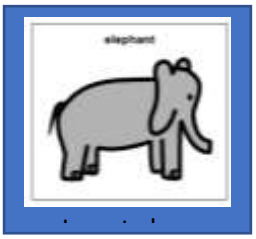


Elephants class



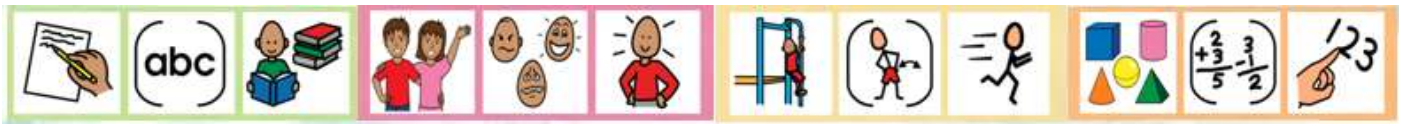
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

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 Elephants class team is below.

				
Joanne/Ania Teachers	**Joely TA3**	**Fathiya PCA**	**TA**	**Azwad LSA**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Light and dark	
Literacy	*Story focus* – *Phonics and reading* – SATPIN -Little Wandle-foundation (Simon says) and phase 1- use of sound of the week., sensory trays, indoor and outdoor provision. We are looking at the Rhyme 'The wheels on the bus' Also use the colourful semantics version of this for choosing time songs. We will also look at 'voice sounds' during out communication sessions also *Fine motor skills and writing-* early mark making, following straight lines, threading and posting activities
Maths	*Number-* Number and place value- we will use practical objects to place 1-1 correspondence as well as matching and ordering numerals to at least 5.We will also use number jigsaws. We will extend our work this half term by building towers where we add 1 more each time. We will use our counting songs and objects to participate in practical counting songs. We will begin our number of the week work focus on Numicon , number blocks. We will hear the sound of each cube in the tin in order to count items and explore number tins. *Geometry* – Colour shape and pattern. using inset puzzles and colour/shape matching activities including posting of these. We will sort objects by colour and explore our colour boxes and colour trays.

Understanding the world around me	*Science (Energy and Light)* –Light and dark sorting activities, day and night, exploration of dark tent and light toys, LED light boards, use of light box in ICT room, looking through coloured panels. *RE*- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism. *Computing* – Touch screen and making choices. Keyboard and mouse skills
Expressive art and design	*Music* – Follow genre of the week, sensory signing choir/ music therapy *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. This will be linked to our Halloween theme. *Art* –Painting – Mixing colours to make them lighter and darker
Physical Education	Gymnastics – Different levels – jumping, balancing and travelling We will practise these skills during our trim trail ,soft play and outdoor sessions. We will use the outdoor space to practise jumping and running , as well as moving forwards and backwards.
PSHE	Managing feelings We will look at different resources we can use to help us to manage our feelings. Staff will help us to know how we are feeling and show us some of the things we can use to help us with these feelings. We will begin to look at happy. We will smile , look at our faces in the mirror and dance to happy songs.
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 share our sensory story All About Me. We will also be introduced to our sound of the week, sign of the week and core word of the week. In the afternoon we will have our Science lesson where we will learn all about our bodies.

On **Tuesdays** we will explore our work on colour shape and pattern in our Maths sessions. In the afternoon we will have our swimming time.

On **Wednesdays** we will begin the day with our phonics sessions and then go to the multisensory room where we will practise taking turns and learn how to use the resources. We will then develop our library skills in the afternoon followed by our movement session in the soft room.

On **Thursdays** we will have a small group work communication session and individual work tasks. We will also have our Football session with the coaches in the hall as part of our P.E.

On **Fridays** we will start the day with an assembly followed by group work communication and then our ICT suite lesson. In the afternoon we will enjoy our Art session followed by relaxation and massage.

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:** Share this song with your child
2. **Maths Focus: This half term we will be focusing on the language of Shapes-**please find shapes in your environment – circle plate, clock. How many circle things can you find in your house?
3. **Communication**: Please share an activity with your child for a short period of time each day eg do a jigsaw, build a tower, play a copy me dance game to favourite music.

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

