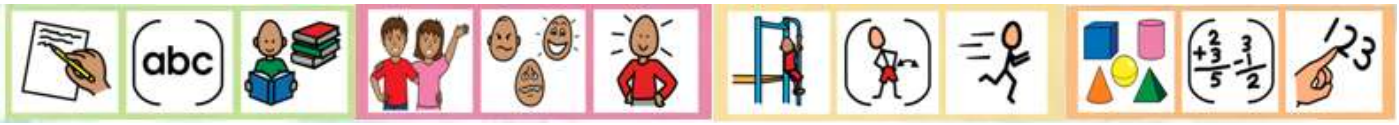
Koalas class

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.

A reminder of the Koalas class team is below.

					
Beth / Charlotte	**Jodie**	**Werrda**	**Natacha**	**Kirsty**	**Teresa**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Space Explorers!	
Literacy	*Story focus* – Aliens love underpants by Claire Freedman *Phonics and reading –* We encourage pupils to explore environmental sounds, access books in our provision and respond to symbols in our environment. We will continue to follow the reading schemes; Little Wandle for our phonetic readers and POPS for our sight readers. As a whole class, we will learn how to say, hear and see individual sounds. This involves multi-sensory activities such as; hearing different volumes of the sound, learning songs linked to the sound and seeing different representations of the sounds (different fonts) *Fine motor skills and writing-* Pupils engage with daily dough disco sessions to support fine motor development. We have writing activities linked to our big book as well as daily writing activities, overwriting, underwriting and working on independent writing in sentences.
Maths	*Number- Addition and subtraction* *Geometry* – Colour shape and pattern.
Understanding the world around me	*Science* – Learning about materials, we will be looking at a range of materials and their uses and linking this to our space topic, exploring what the environment is like in space. *RE*- Light and hope. Religious exploration of Judaism and Sikhism *Computing* –Digital art, exploring a range of programs using drawing tools on the computer and IPad. *Geography* – Navigating familiar environments with reduced support. Follow simple routes in school, following positional language
Expressive art and design	*Music* – Follow genre of the week, sensory signing choir. *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* – painting, exploring different painting techniques using a range of different mediums.

Physical Education	Basic movement skills- run, skip, hop, throw, catch, coordination activities
PSHE	Managing feelings, we will be looking at different emotions and recognising how we feel and how others feel. We will use zones of regulation to help build our understanding of 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 be spending lots of time getting to know our new young people this term and transitioning safely to lots of new resource spaces across school as the young people get to know their new school environment. We'll use this as an opportunity to use communication strategies to support these motivational transitions.

On **Mondays** we will be working on our digital art skills in the computer suite in the morning. We will have playtime in the slide area and share with some friends from different classes in the afternoon.

On **Tuesdays** we will focus on our big book, sensory story in the morning and enjoy the swings playground in the afternoon.

On **Wednesdays** we will have tennis sessions with a tennis coach in the morning and enjoy play with our peers in the big soft room in the afternoon.

On **Thursdays** we will have football sessions in the morning, a fun movement session led by Manchester City specialist coaches, followed by our swimming session in the hydrotherapy pool at school.

On **Fridays** we will have our school assembly to share special themes and celebrate stars of the week.

Please ensure you send your child with a named water bottle and snacks for the day.
A polite reminder that we are nut free and all allergy aware 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.

Literacy Focus Story: Aliens love underpants is our focus story this half term, you can access a video of the story here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svSNvzGmLUg

Maths Focus: Shape and colour: Sort shapes into groups (all circles together, all squares together). Build pictures using 2D shapes and name each shape used. Play a shape guessing game: "I have 4 sides and 4 corners. What am I?" Go on a shape walk and keep a tally of shapes seen outside.

Communication: Play turn-taking games and model language such as my turn, your turn, go and stop. Read stories together and talk about the pictures.

***** 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 Johnson

