

Pandas class



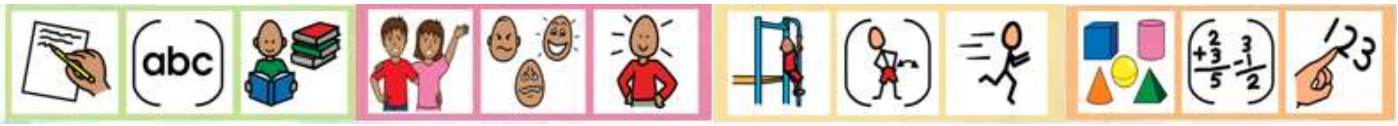
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

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 Pandas class team is below.

				
Cat (Mon-Th)	**Fozia/Katie (Job Share) Fozia- M/T/Weds am Katie- Weds pm/Th/Fri**	**Karen (Mon-Fri)**	**Sabina (Mon-Fri)**	**LSA - Shoripa**

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Space explorers	
Literacy	*Story focus* – Aliens Love Underpants By, Claire Freedman & Ben Cort *Phonics and reading –* We encourage pupils to explore environmental sounds, access books within our provision, and respond to symbols in their environment. We will continue to follow the reading schemes Little Wandle for phonetic readers, the children will complete personalised activities linked to their phonics development. These activities will include tasks such as blending and segmenting words, recognising initial sounds, voice and body sounds, tricky words and reading and writing captions. In Literacy, linked to the sensory story, the children will use colourful semantics to support their comprehension skills. They will answer "who", "what", "what doing", and "where" questions in response to the story they have listened to or read. *Fine motor skills and writing-* Pupils will have daily opportunities to practice their fine motor and pencil control through a range of exciting activities and resources.
Maths	*Number- Addition and subtraction* *Geometry* – Colour shape and pattern.
	Science (Materials) – Materials and there uses. What's it like in space?

Understanding the world around me	*RE*- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism. *Computing* – Digital art. Exploring tools
Expressive art and design	*Music* – Follow genre of the week and sensory signing choir *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* –Painting – Using different painting techniques
Physical Education	Gymnastics – Rolling, making shapes on low apparatus
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 – Gymnastics

Every Monday, the children will take part in gymnastics sessions in the school hall. These sessions will provide opportunities to develop their balance, coordination, flexibility and overall physical skills. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on Wednesdays: black shorts or joggers with a white/yellow T-shirt or polo shirt to allow them to move freely and participate safely in the activities.

On Wednesdays – Tennis and Physical Development

Every Wednesday, the children will enjoy tennis sessions led by a qualified tennis coach. These sessions will also contribute to their Physical Development learning, helping them to develop their coordination, balance and movement skills. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their **PE kit** on Wednesdays: black shorts or joggers with a white/yellow T-shirt or polo shirt.

On Fridays – Celebration and Social Development

Every Friday, we will come together for our whole-school assembly, where we will explore a range of special themes and celebrate our *Stars of the Week*, recognising and celebrating the children's achievements. During the afternoon, the children will enjoy a variety of social activities, giving them opportunities to mix and interact with children from across the school. These experiences will help to nurture friendships, build confidence and develop their communication and social skills.

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: *Aliens Love Underpants*

Enjoy sharing our focus story together! Click here to listen to *Aliens Love Underpants* read aloud on YouTube.

- Look at the pictures together and talk about what you can see. Your child can point, gesture, use signs or say words.
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated words, sounds or actions.
- Choose your favourite alien or pair of underpants.
- Draw, colour or decorate your own pair of silly alien underpants.
- Practise recognising familiar letters, sounds or your child's name.

Remember: Your child does not need to answer questions verbally. Pointing, choosing pictures, using communication aids or showing you are all wonderful ways to communicate.

2. Maths Focus – Number: Addition and Subtraction

Explore numbers through everyday play:

- Count toys, snacks, building blocks or steps together.
- Practise counting on your fingers or using objects to help.
- Add two small groups of toys together. How many are there altogether?
- Take objects away and see how many are left.
- Play simple counting games using favourite toys.

Remember: Use real objects, visual number cards and plenty of repetition. Start with small numbers and work at your child's own pace.

3. Geometry – Colour, Shape and Pattern

Explore colours, shapes and patterns through play:

- Go on a shape hunt around the house. Can you find a circle, square or triangle?
- Sort toys or objects by colour, shape or size.
- Make simple patterns using coloured blocks, toys or everyday objects.
- Create colourful pictures using different shapes.
- Play matching games with shapes and colours.

Remember: Offer choices between two objects or pictures to help your child identify and match colours and shapes.

4. Communication and Language

Support your child's communication through everyday interactions:

- Share books and enjoy familiar songs together.
- Talk about what you are doing during everyday routines, such as cooking, getting dressed or playing.
- Encourage your child to make choices, such as choosing a toy, snack or story.
- Play turn-taking games, such as fun and exciting board games.
- Use gestures, signs, pictures, objects or communication aids to support understanding and expression.
- Give your child plenty of time to respond and celebrate all attempts to communicate.

Remember: Communication looks different for every child. Sounds, facial expressions, gestures, pointing, signs, pictures and words are all valuable ways of communicating.

A little reminder...

Please don't feel that learning at home needs to involve worksheets or formal activities. The most important thing is to spend time together, follow your child's interests, have fun and celebrate their achievements, no matter how small!

***** 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/Annie Williams

