

# Penguins class



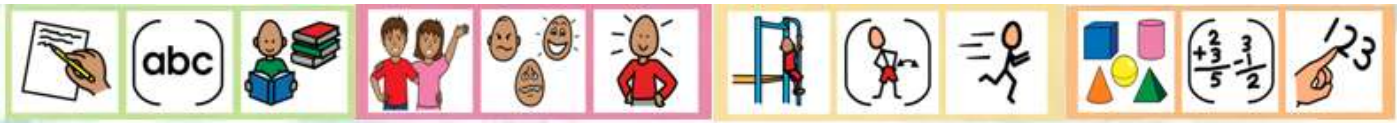
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

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 Penguin class team is below.

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Dawn** | **Kym** | **Antonia** | **Denise/ Nipa** | **Yvonne** |

## OUR LEARNING THIS TERM




| *AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Light and dark* | |
|---|---|
| ***Literacy*** | Story focus – Night Monkey Day Monkey by Julia Donaldson<br>Phonics and reading – We will explore environmental sounds, enjoy stories and recognise sounds linked to letters. Our focus sounds will be **S, A, T, P, I and N**. Children will begin to recognise initial sounds and blend sounds together.<br>Fine motor skills and writing- Children will take part in fun activities to develop their fine motor skills and enjoy lots of mark making. Where appropriate, children will begin to practise writing their own name and simple words. |
| ***Maths*** | Number- Addition and subtraction<br>Geometry – Colour shape and pattern. |
| ***Understanding the world around me*** | Science (Energy and Light) –Light and dark sorting activities<br>RE- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism.<br>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 with Beth<br>Food technology – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off.<br>Art –Painting – Mixing colours to make them lighter and darker |
| ***Physical Education*** | Gymnastics – Different levels – jumping, balancing and travelling |

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| ***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.<br>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.<br>We will introduce different core words weekly this term, we will look at 'poorly, big and little, fast and slow, hot and cold, touch, hear, smell.' |



# 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 explore the big soft room, the bike track and the trim trail.

On **Tuesdays Group 2 children** will go swimming in the morning. You will be informed of your child's swimming group via **Dojo**. Please send your child into school with swimming costume or swim shorts, swimming nappies if appropriate and a towel. During swimming sessions, we will encourage the children to develop their independence by practising putting on and taking off their own T-shirts, while supporting their self-dressing skills. In the afternoon we are supported by Dragon Occupational Therapy to deliver personalised sessions.

On **Wednesdays** we will explore the computers in the ICT suite and attend signing choir in the hall.

On **Thursdays** in the morning, we will explore and enjoy books in the Library. In the afternoon, the children will have the opportunity to explore and use iPads.

On **Fridays** we will have our school assembly to share special themes and celebrate stars of the week. We will have access to the swings and trim trail in the morning. In the afternoon we will visit the little soft room and attend a music session with Beth.

*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.*

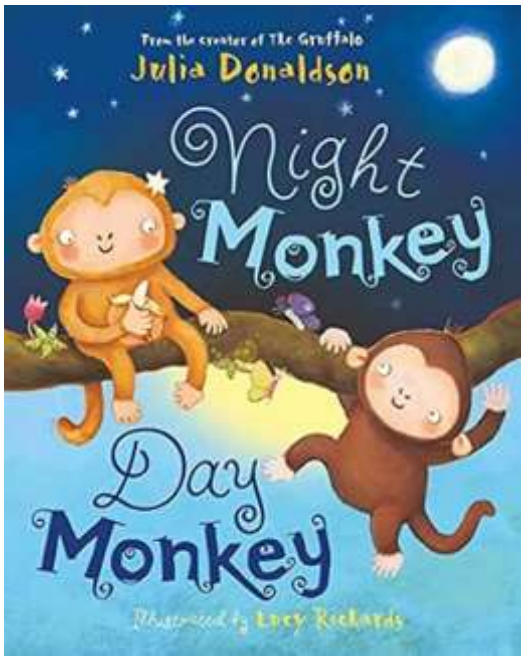


# Ways to help at home

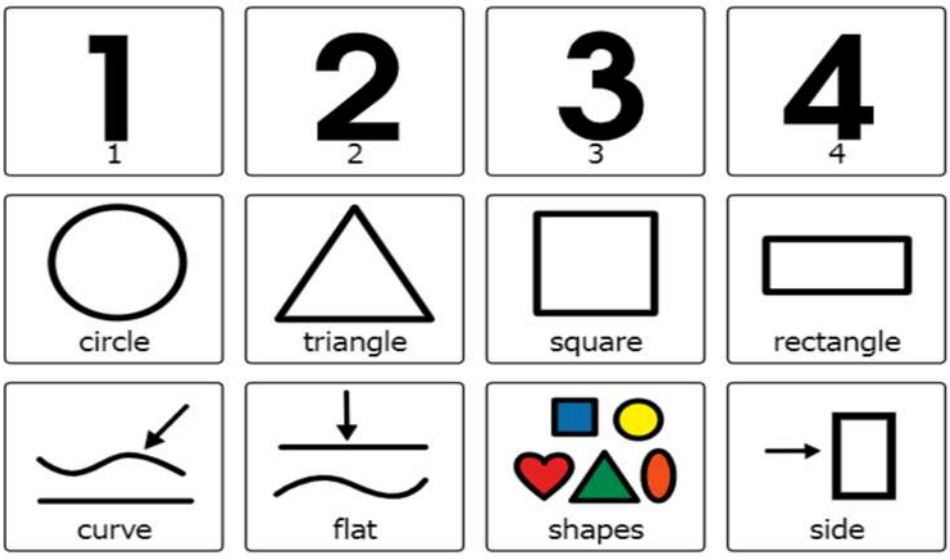


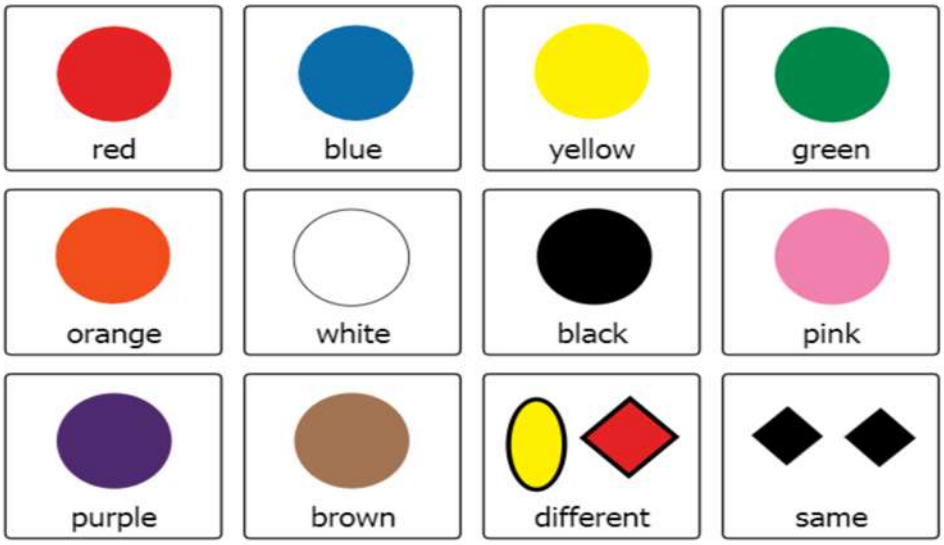
*Here are a few ways to support your children in their learning at home in fun and engaging ways.*

1. **Literacy Focus Story:** Here is the link to our story 'Night Monkey, Day Monkey' we will be looking at as part of our topic 'light and dark' if you want to share it at home with your child. If you have a toy monkey at home you could use this as a prop to engage your child in the story.
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy200s7hwGs

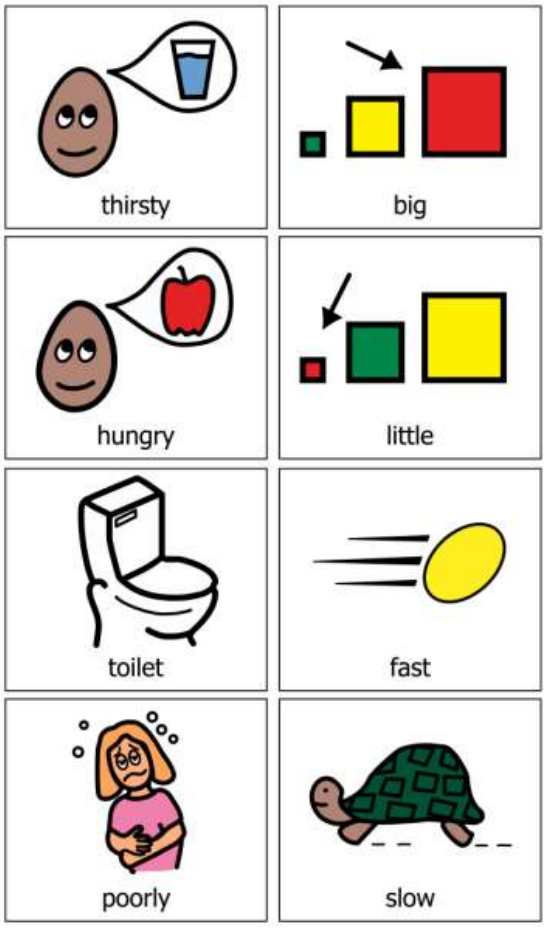



2. **Maths Focus: This half term we will be focusing on the language:**
   **In Number**, we will be exploring addition and subtraction by creating groups and using the language of 'more' and 'fewer'. We will be learning to recognise when groups have more or fewer objects and how adding or taking away changes the amount. You can support your child at home by counting everyday objects, adding more or taking some away, and talking about how the amounts change.
   **In Geometry**, we will be exploring colours, shapes and patterns. You can support your child by spotting different shapes, talking about colours and looking for patterns around the home.






3. **Communication**: We will continue to use our communication mats to support and encourage pupils' communication throughout the day. We will also continue to follow our Core Word of the Week programme, introducing and practising a new word each week. This helps to develop pupils' understanding, language and confidence in communicating their needs, wants and ideas.
   Below are the core words we will be learning each week.



***** 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

