

Zebras class



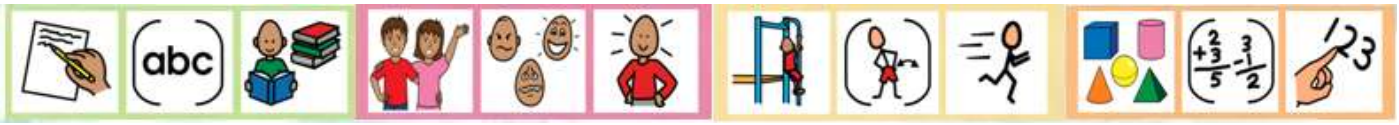
Welcome back! We hope you've had a great half term break and are feeling well rested. Autumn 2 is going to be super busy and fun at The Birches and there will be lots of ways we'll be inviting you to get involved within our school community.

We hope you were able to 'Meet the Team' before the holidays. If not, we hope you accessed the cohort profile and 'meet the team' info that was shared on class dojo before the holidays. This shared lots of information about our class.

A reminder of the Zebras class team is below.

				
Alice	**Roda**	**Zakia**	**Aseel**	**Leisa**
	***We're all here to support your child!***			
Eman (LSA)				

OUR LEARNING THIS TERM



AUTUMN 2 TOPIC – Space explorers	
Literacy	*Story focus* – We are focusing on 'Ten little aliens' as our sensory story. This supports our overall topic title of 'Space explorers'. We will encounter different aspects of space through our comet (tinsel wand), hot and cold planets (ice and a hand warmers) and aliens (finger puppets). We will be focusing on a different part of the story each week. *Phonics and reading –* Our zebras will continue to explore and listen to different sounds. This will be through a variety of phonics activities, including our sound of the week, musical instrument sessions, noisy toys and silly vocal sounds. There will be opportunities to enjoy sharing books with adults and respond to symbols around us. *Fine motor skills and writing-* Mark making, cutting skills and fine motor activities linked to our topic learning. We also practise writing the grapheme representing the 'sound of the week' too, as well as making shapes in different sensory materials.
	Number- Addition and subtraction through whole class work and individual activities too.

Maths	*Geometry* – Colour shape and pattern. This will continue with our textured shapes, sorting colours and working individually to develop our knowledge.
Understanding the world around me	*Science (Materials)* – Materials and their uses. What's it like in space? *RE*- Themes- light and hope. Religious exploration of Sikhism and Judaism. *Computing* – Digital art. Exploring tools.
Expressive art and design	*Music* – We follow the 'genre of the week' and enjoy our music session in class, including playing instruments in different ways and noticing the sounds they make. *Food technology* – We will be developing our skills in preparation for Birches Bake off. *Art* –Painting – Using different painting
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 focus points. Our dojo posts reference the 'core word of the week' and the activities that we share as part of this, so keep an eye on this too, so that you can support at home please. The aim of the core word programme is to support functional language use and application, with transfer of this vocabulary 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. It's really important please that your child brings a suitable named coat to school each day please. Please can you also send in a named pair of wellies for us to keep here at school so that we can use them on rainy days.

On **Mondays** we will be swimming in the afternoon and also using the iPads as part of our learning. Please send in swimming costumes/shorts, towels and swim nappies as required. We will be sharing our sensory story in the mornings too.

On **Tuesdays,** we will share in our attention awareness session as part of our circle time. We will also be accessing the library and link this with our literacy work as part of our early book awareness and early reading work. Our soft room play in the mornings is a great time of movement and interaction too.

On **Wednesdays,** we will be enjoying our computing work in the morning, exploring different types of digital art together. Our science learning about space will include sensory exploration and learning about what it is like in space.

On **Thursdays,** we will be accessing the bike track in the mornings. This will be alongside some of our individual maths focused work. We will also share in some gymnastics movement activities, having a go at making different shapes with our bodies and balancing across a balance beam.

On **Fridays,** we will have our school assembly to share special themes and celebrate stars of the week. We will also access the small soft room later in the day. In the afternoon, our sensory yoga and play based session are a calm way to end the week together.

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 every day too please.



Ways to help at home



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

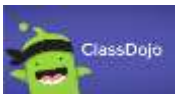
1. **Literacy Focus Story: '**Ten Little Aliens' - We will be finding out about what it is like in space. You can support with this through making a room dark and using torches and lights together. Sharing videos and songs about space is a great thing to enjoy together too.
2. **Maths Focus:** This half term we will be focusing on two areas – number work (including addition and subtraction) and shapes, colours and pattern. Can your child collect red items from around the house? What can you find together in your house that are circle shape?
3. **Communication:** Please continue with communication skills at home through develop choice making and following instructions in the best way for your child. This may be particular visuals (we can help with this) or it might be remembering to give your child lots of time to make their choices. It's always good to spend time just being with your child, showing an interest in the same things as they are interested in and playing alongside them. We will be sending home a core word board to support communication between home and school. Try using it during everyday activities and play — for example, pointing to "more" when your child wants more bubbles or a favourite toy.

***** PLEASE NOTE: We will optimise 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 - Ania Skolik-Wieczniak & Danielle March.

