



Beech Class Newsletter

January 2019

Welcome

Hello and welcome back to Beech class

We hope you had a fun and enjoyable Christmas break and are all ready for the start of an exciting new half term!

There is still lots of building work going on in school and it is hoped that we will be moving into our new classroom during this term.

Last term, linked to our topic of festivals and celebrations, Beech class were very busy preparing for the Winter Wonderland Christmas performance. Pupils worked so hard making props and scenery as well as practicing for their part in the Magical Ice Kingdom. We also worked hard making decorations and had a wonderful time decorating a tree for the Lichfield Cathedral Christmas tree festival.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch via the office, in your child's home school diary or email joanne.baker@saxonhill.shaw-education.org.uk

Thematic Unit

Our thematic unit this half term is **Colours**. We shall be exploring the question 'What colours make up our world?' with many different sensory activities and experiences. In February we will be experiencing sensory activities linked to Chinese New Year.



Each week we will be focussing on a different colour or artist. This half term we will be exploring the colours blue, white and red and the work of the artists Kandinsky and Pollock. To start the term with a WOW moment we will be holding a colourful birthday party with balloons, streamers, lights and candles.

Cognition

We have got a sensory story to explore and interact with, called 'planting a rainbow'. We shall have to see if we can grow our own rainbow! We have got some exciting art



activities planned, including melting crayons, painting with ice and splatting paint in the style of Pollock! In our sensory workouts, we will be smelling, tasting, feeling, looking at and listening to colour related items such as smelling black boot polish and feeling orange lentils.



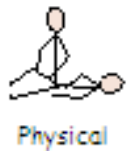
Communication

As always, we will be working hard in our communication lessons this term to achieve our targets. In Starbox and dance massage, we will experience a range of Colour related music along with Colour items being tapped on our skin or touching our bodies. We will also enjoy story massage stories, rhymes and songs and communication and Colour songs in music. We will communicate and show our preferences, likes and dislikes and anticipate what is happening next in familiar activities.



Physical

We have got lots of Colour themed items to explore and experience in tactile awareness sessions this term. These will include coloured rice, gloop, water beads, jelly, spaghetti and sand. In treasure baskets and Be Active, we will explore different coloured objects with very different textures. The pupils in Beech class have a change of position each session and all follow their own daily physical programmes.



Care, Independence & Social Skills

We will all be working hard to work on our care, independence and social skills targets this term. We will enjoy Soundbath each week, which gives us time to reflect and process where we are and what we have experienced during the day.



FLOW & Rebound

Unfortunately whilst the building work has been going on, we haven't been able to access the rebound room. Hopefully this will be up and running again soon. Also due to the building work, the hydro pool has been difficult to access. We hope to restart FLOW sessions in the very near future.



Rebound will be on Thursday afternoons and FLOW on Wednesday mornings.

Intensive Interaction

We are starting to communicate through Intensive Interaction in class this term. Intensive Interaction is an approach to help people at early levels of development learn the fundamentals of communication. It is lots of fun and we have seen some fantastic communication already. It is hoped that this will continue and that Jo will be able to run an introduction session to Intensive Interaction for parents soon.



Story massage



In Beech Class, we all enjoy story massage sessions. Claire Starling has recently been on a Story Massage course and is going to run a parents course on Wednesday 30th January. It is a wonderful way for families to share stories and family time together. It would be great to see you if you can come along on this morning.