

Woodpecker Class Summer Term Overview

Welcome to the Summer Term and what glorious weather we have had so far. Thank you to those parents who have sent in hats and sun screen. I will assume that for students who do not bring in hats or sun screen that their parents/carers are happy for them so go outside unprotected from the sun. They will of course be encouraged to stay in the shade.

We have a busy term ahead with several visits planned. We will be visiting The Pavilion where some members of 6th Form do work experience. This will give us the opportunity to use money, act appropriately in a social situation, and practise road safety awareness amongst other skills. On May 22nd we will be visiting Stocks Farm again to see the apple trees in blossom and learn about the cycle of an apple tree. Later in the term on July 11th we return to Hopes Ash Farm to see the Herefordshire summer wildlife as well as learning where our food comes from. We are also going to Lower Hope Wood on June 20th so that we can learn about tree conservation and how important it is to look after our environment.

As you are aware, in Woodpecker Class we follow The Adult Curriculum. It is a Functional Curriculum where students are learning the skills that they will need as they work towards independence. Therefore, as such, we do not work from a Topic as the younger students in school do. Topics do not lend themselves to our style of learning and are not usually age appropriate for Woodpecker Students.

I am sending home a class timetable. This is a guide to our week but it is not always stuck to rigidly as much of our learning is Student Led. For example, if we get caught up in a discussion at the start of a session we may well carry on that subject after our break.

I will give you a brief overview of what we work on in each area:

Guided Reading: A small group activity. Students read a text together, taking it in turns to read aloud as others follow text. They then discuss the text to enhance comprehension. Some students have individual texts specifically designed to enhance reading comprehension. Those students not ready for small group reading will read individually.

Letters and Sounds: Phonics based activities to improve spelling.
Some students have word lists to learn in this session.

Apples and Pears: An activity that helps both phonic knowledge and handwriting.

Art: Students choose as a group what they would like to produce as they work towards their Transition Challenge award. They will choose from a variety of mediums including clay, charcoal, paint, pastels.

ICT: A variety of activities including data handling for maths, creative activities on Purple Mash, simple word processing.

Literacy Functional Skills: Students work on tasks that they might need in real life situations as they work towards their qualifications e.g. list writing in various forms, note writing, letter writing, emails, texts, form filling etc.

Numeracy Functional Skills: Students work on areas that they will need in real life situations as they work towards their qualifications and independence e.g. money , time, data handling, shape, weight, length ,capacity and basic number skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)

Cooking: This term we are concentrating on two separate elements, independent kitchen skills through simple pasta based dishes and why cakes and biscuits should only be eaten as a treat. By making cakes and biscuits from scratch students will be able to see for themselves the amount of fat and sugar involved in making them. Students will be cooking as a group and tasting a small amount of recipes cooked and not bringing food home. This is to keep costs down and encourage communication as students work together. Cooking Sessions are also used to teach Literacy and Numeracy Functional Skills as described above.

PE: Cricket, Rounders and Archery
Please can students have shorts, T-shirt and trainers in school each Tuesday?

Swimming: This year Woodpecker Class will swim at Leominster Halo Pool. This is to promote independence skills. Students will need to bring their own money each week and pay as we enter. They will use a coin to open their locker. Students will shower and wash hair. They will of course be supported to do all of these but the long term aim is independence

Introduction to Work: People who work at Westfield School: Learning about different rolls within school. Composing questions to find out about peoples jobs, interviewing staff, writing letters, emails etc.

PSHE:—Teenage relationships

6th Form Social and Drama: An opportunity to get together with friends from 6th Form. We will have quizzes where students create their own questions, this will introduce new areas of interest to each other and enable us to learn more about each other. Some weeks we will play board games – a chance to use our numeracy skill and rehearse conversational skills with our friends. Drama sessions will enable us to practise scenarios we may find ourselves in in a safe environment. It will also give students an opportunity to practise their Speaking and Listening Skills for their qualifications.

Friendship Groups: Small groups who work with Val (our Learning Mentor) on social and communication skills.

Lego Group: A small group activity base on communication skills.