



Welcome back. We hope you and your families had a wonderful break.

Our Topic this half term is '**Active Planet**'. We will be learning about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes.

Through discussion and practical tasks, we will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.

If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Birch Class life, please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojos or by email – nthebe1.210@lgflmail.org .

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Regards, Mrs Opaleye

Class Teacher – Mrs Opaleye

Additional Adults: Mr Scott & Mrs Bri

Spring 1 2023 - This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

<p>English</p>	<p>The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes. We will explore the text in its historical context and discuss the themes and imagery within. We will explore a range of grammatical concepts including dialogue to create inference about a character, a variety of noun phrases to create description, character comparisons using conjunctions, personification and prepositions to describe a setting. We will write a range of different texts such as diary entries, letters, character comparisons, setting descriptions and finish by writing their own evacuation narrative. Then we will focus on The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman. The children will discover a set of matchboxes containing some of the mementoes from the story. After writing predictions about what the objects might relate to, the children listen to the story in stages. They make inferences about why the great-grandfather and his family went to America, explore vocabulary and write in role. After exploring prepositions, they create a ship's log that is in the form of a recount. They then investigate migration and read for research to gather ideas about Ellis Island. Following this, the children plan and then write a non-chronological report about the great-grandfather's and other who made a similar journey all those years ago.</p> <p>Spelling lists will be sent home on Fridays and tested the following week. We will continue to focus on the Year 3/4 spelling rules and patterns such as prefixes and suffixes. 'Spelling lists will be sent home on Fridays and tested the following week (Friday). We will continue to focus on the Year 3/4 spelling rules and patterns such as prefixes and suffixes.</p>
<p>Presentation and Handwriting</p>	<p>We believe that clear presentation and neat handwriting is a crucial part of a child's development. Our school is now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can login to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers at home. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.</p>
<p>Reading Records</p>	<p>The children will bring home a book from the class book corner or the school library every week. Please read and discuss the book with your child and support them with recording a comment about their reading in their reading record. Your child will also be able to read a range of newspapers on First News.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>In Maths the children will begin the term by building on their mental arithmetic knowledge using division. The children will have an opportunity to learn about fractions; including finding equivalent fractions, adding fractions and subtracting fractions. They will continue to apply their knowledge and skills within problem-solving contexts. Each child will also learn how to use decimals.</p> <p>Please ensure that your child knows their number bonds to one hundred. Your child must also learn all times tables and related division facts (x2, x3, x4, x5, x6, x7, x8, x9, x10, x11 and x12) — it is vital that children know these in order to progress in numeracy. Please encourage the daily use of TTRS and Maths frame at home. https://trockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/</p> <p>Times Tables – This year the children will sit the times tables test in June 2023. Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>Our topic this half term is 'Plants'. We will undertake a range of activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make systematic and careful observations • Create branching diagrams

	Make predictions and carry out simple investigations
History/ Geography	Our Topic this half term is 'Active Planet. We will be learning about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. Through discussion and practical tasks, we will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.
Art/Design & Technology	Art Topic- Craft and design: Fabric of nature Developing skills in textile techniques, pupils explore the beauty of the natural world to create stunning visual art inspired by the striking colours, pattern and textures of bird and insect life.
P.E.	Birch will have PE on a Monday afternoon. Your child/children will need to wear their PE kit and school jumper to school on this day Please ensure your child/children are wearing the following kit for PE: Black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls. PE will be taught by Coach Samuel .
Additional PE Sessions	We have acquired additional funding for all of the children within Birch Class to partake in an extra PE session taught by Coach Samuels. The boys within the class will need to wear their PE kits on Mondays and Thursdays. The girls within the class will need to wear their PE kits on Mondays and Fridays.
Swimming	In addition to a weekly PE lesson, as part of the PE curriculum, children in Birch class will have weekly swimming lessons at St Thomas the Apostle School SE15. The lessons will continue every Wednesday during the Spring Term. All lessons will be taught by a professional swimming instructor and supported by a member of our school's staff. Your child will need to bring a one-piece swimming costume (for girls), a pair of swimming trunks (for boys), a towel and a swimming hat. The costume and trunks should be green, blue or black only. <u>Please note that these swimming lessons are compulsory, not optional.</u> If you have any questions or concerns about these swimming lessons, please speak to Mrs Opaleye.
Music	LKS2 will have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe.
Computing	Our topic this half term is: We are Bloggers In this unit, pupils will share their experiences and opinions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● become familiar with blogs as a medium and a genre of writing ● create a sequence of blog posts on a theme ● incorporate additional media ● comment on the posts of others ● develop a critical, reflective view of a range of media, including text.
Spanish	Spanish will continue to be taught every week. In this unit, the pupils will learn about 'The Wider World' related to countries, continents and animals. Your child will learn specific vocabulary of countries of the United Kingdom, Spanish-speaking countries, continents and animals associated with them and a country's position related to the equator.
R.E.	This term our topic will be Why is Easter important to Christians? We will explore: What is Easter and why is it celebrated? What are the symbols associated with Easter and how do they suggest new life? What is Palm Sunday? What are the events of the Last Supper? What were the events in the Garden of Gethsemane? How do Christians remember and celebrate Easter today?
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be ' Healthy Me. ' We will also continue to develop our awareness and understanding of how we can remain physically and mentally healthy.

<p>Easter Bonnets/ Gardens</p>	<p>During the Spring term, children will have the opportunity to bring in the Easter bonnets and gardens that they have made at home. There will be prizes for the best ones. Please see examples from last year below.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Each Friday your child will be set literacy and numeracy tasks. These must be returned the following Tuesday. Children should continue to learn their times tables, which will be tested on a regular basis. Additional maths homework will be assigned on the Sumdog website, for which each child also has their own username and password. Children should also learn their weekly spellings which will be sent home every week and tested the following week. All children have been assigned logins for TTRS, Sumdog and First News</p>
<p>Key Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/02/23 Curriculum Newsletter for this half term will be sent home. • 24/02/23 Spelling Bee competition • 27/02/23 World Book Day • 08/03/23 Parents/teachers consultation day one • 09/03/23 Parents/Teachers consultation day two • 10/03/23 Spanish Day • 13/03/23 Assessment Week • 17/03/23 Red Nose Day / Comic Relief • 21/03/23 World Poetry Day • 23/03/23 Times Tables Challenge • 25/03/23 Poetry Recital • 27/03/23 Easter bonnets and gardens brought parade • 29/03/23 Birch class parents invited to lunch at 12:25 (Please let the office know the day before if you would like to attend) • 30/03/23 Easter Cake Sale <li style="padding-left: 20px;">31/03/23 Last Day of Spring Term – school finishes at 2:00 pm (There will be no enrichment or after school clubs)
<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct school uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.</p>

Autumn: Black History Month



Spring: Topic - The Anglo-Saxons/ Book Week / WBD and Easter

- Make a 3D model of an item from the Anglo-Saxon era e.g. jewellery, a purse lid, shield, helmet etc.



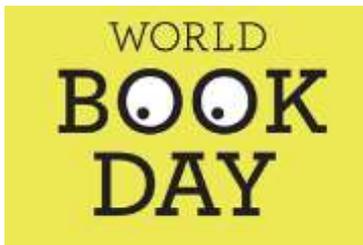
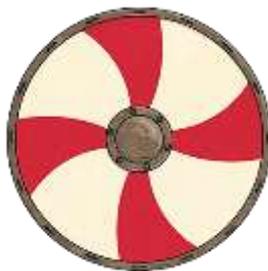
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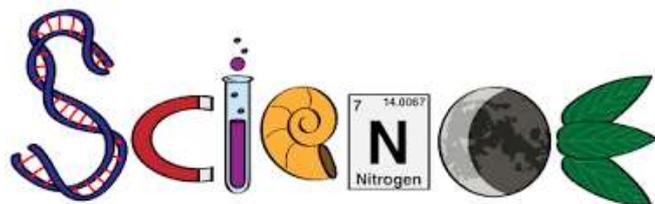
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Purse lid



Summer: Science and Art



Please note that aside from these whole school projects, you will be required to plan for some creative 3D home learning tasks linked to your topics as part of your weekly homework expectations.