

Happy New Year!



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

Our Topic this half term will focus on the **Anglo-Saxons and the Scots**. We will be learning about who the Anglo-Saxons and Scots were and when and why they invaded England. We will also be exploring some key features of life in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

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

Teaching Assistant- Mrs Bi

Spring 1 2024- This half term Year 3/4 will be learning about the following topics:

English	<p>Our first focus text will be 'The Iron Man' written by Ted Hughes and illustrated by Laura Carlin in which we will explore the devices of mystery and suspense. We will write a range of different texts-types including letters, a news article and a poem with the extended written outcome being a published narrative.</p> <p>Next, we will focus on 'The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde' in which children will explore the text through a range of immersion and engagement activities and will write a range of texts, including diaries, letters, posters, reports, and their own versions.</p> <p>Spelling lists will be sent home on Fridays and will be tested the following Thursday. We will continue to focus on the Year 3/4 spelling rules and patterns such as prefixes and suffixes.</p>
Presentation and Handwriting	<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>
Reading Records	<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. Please can you ensure that your child brings their reading record and reading book to school each day. Reading books will also be changed every Thursday.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths the children will begin the term by building on their mental arithmetic knowledge using multiplication and division. The children will have an opportunity to learn about factors, common factors, multiplying and dividing whole numbers. They will continue to apply their knowledge and skills within problem-solving contexts. Each child will learn how to count fractions and find equivalent fractions.</p> <p>Year 3 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, x8 and x10) — it is vital that children know these in order to progress in numeracy.</p> <p>Year 4 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.</p> <p>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 year 4 children will sit the times tables test in June 2024. Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.</p>

Science	<p>Our topic this half term is Sound. We will undertake a range of investigations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating • Recognise that vibrations from a sound travel through a medium to the ear. • Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
History/ Geography	<p>Our Topic this half term will focus on the 'Anglo-Saxons and the Scots. The children will have the opportunity to learn how the Anglo-Saxons influenced the English language, with an emphasis on the origins of some English place names, and they will also examine and analyse artefacts from the period and draw their own conclusions about what they can teach us about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. In addition to this they will also learn what life was like in a typical Anglo-Saxon village, what jobs people did and what the houses were like.</p>
Art/Design & Technology	<p>Art Topic- Craft and design: Fabric of nature</p> <p>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>
P.E.	<p>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.</p>
Swimming	<p>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.</p> <p>The lessons will start from Wednesday 17th January 2024 and every Wednesday thereafter the term. All lessons will be taught by a professional swimming instructor and supported by a member of our school's staff.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Please note that these swimming lessons are compulsory, not optional.</u></p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns about these swimming lessons, please speak to Mrs Opaleye.</p>
Music	<p>LKS2 will have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe.</p>
Computing	<p>Our topic this half term is: We are musicians by creating a piece of music in GarageBand</p> <p>In this unit, pupils create their own animation in Scratch. In:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play music using virtual instruments • compose or edit tunes using the piano roll (pitch and duration) tool • perform electronic music using pre-recorded loops, and create their own loops • create a multi-track composition or performance using multiple instruments • give feedback to others on their compositions and performances.
Spanish	<p>Spanish will continue to be taught every week. In this unit, the pupils will learn to develop their conversational skills via some new topics: Shopping and the Wider World</p>
R.E.	<p>This term our topic will be What makes me the person I am? All religions and world views. We will explore: Who influences our life? 1. Who influences our life? Who or what influenced the life of St Francis? What objects are special to people in my community? What things do I care about in my community? What can I do to help improve my community?</p>
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	<p>Our focus this half term will be 'Dreams and Goals.' We will also continue to develop our awareness and understanding of the school's core values: Relationships, resilience, respect and responsibility.</p>

Homework	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, First News and Bug Club.
Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 9th January - Children return to school at 8:55am • Wednesday 10th January - Height and weight checks YR -YR6 • Thursday 11th January - Year 4 MTC meeting with parents at 3:40pm • Monday 15th January - Enrichment clubs begin • Wednesday 17th - Year 3/4 Weekly Swimming Lessons Begin • Friday 26th January - Birch Class Assembly at 9:30am • Week commencing Monday 29th January – Maths Week (£3 donation requested for the workshop) • Wednesday 31st January - Year 3/4 visit to the Frameless Gallery (£5 Payment) • Thursday 1st February Times table challenge YR1 – YR6 • Friday 2nd February- NSPCC Number Day (Fundraising day) • Monday 5th February- Children Mental Health Awareness Week 2024 • Thursday 8th February -Poetry Recital Assembly • Thursday 8th February - Last Day of Term • Friday 9th February – INSET DAY (Teaching Staff) • Monday 12th February – 16th February – Half-term Holiday • Monday 19th February – Children return to school at 8:55am
Additional Information	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. Your child will also need to bring their bag to school each day.