



**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](mailto:nthebe1.210@lgflmail.org).

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Regards, Mrs Opaleye



Class Teacher – Mrs Opaleye

Additional Adults: Mrs Bri & Mr Scott

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

<b>English</b>	<b>The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes.</b> 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 <b>The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman.</b> 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.
<b>New Spelling Scheme</b>	We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spellings. We have created a spelling challenge to make this fun and engaging and we are offering a whole host of rewards to motivate and encourage the children to get on board! All that we ask, is that you help your children learn to spell the words on their challenge card. Every time they have secured a section (bronze, silver or gold), staff will check that they have indeed secured the bronze, silver or gold block and the children will receive a certificate and they can begin learning the next set of spellings. We are hopeful that this will be more meaningful than testing spellings weekly and by basing it on high frequency words and words commonly used in their writing, it will be more purposeful as it is being embedded not only in Literacy but across the whole curriculum.
<b>World Book Week 2024</b>	The week beginning Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March is Book Week! There will be a creative home learning project linked to Book Week.
<b>Presentation and Handwriting</b>	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.
<b>Reading Records</b>	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.
<b>Maths</b>	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. <b>Please ensure that your child knows their number bonds to one hundred. Your</b>

	<p><b>Year 3</b> 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><b>Year 4</b> 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 <b>TTRS</b> and <b>Maths frame</b> at home. <a href="https://ttrockstars.com/">https://ttrockstars.com/</a> <a href="https://mathsframe.co.uk/">https://mathsframe.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Times Tables – This year the year 4 children will sit the times tables test in June 2024.</b> Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.</p>
Science	<p>Our topic this half term is '<b>Plants</b>'. We will undertake a range of activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make systematic and careful observations</li> <li>• Create branching diagrams</li> </ul> <p>Make predictions and carry out simple investigations</p>
History/ Geography	<p>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.</p>
Art/Design & Technology	<p>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>
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: <b>Black</b> tracksuit bottoms, a <b>white</b> t-shirt and <b>black</b> trainers or plimsolls. PE will be taught by <b>Coach Samuel</b>.</p>
Additional PE Sessions	<p>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 <b>boys</b> within the class will need to wear their PE kits on Mondays and Thursdays. The <b>girls</b> within the class will need to wear their PE kits on Mondays and Fridays.</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. The lessons will resume from <b>Wednesday 21st February 2024</b> 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. <b>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.</b> <b><u>Please note that these swimming lessons are compulsory, not optional.</u></b> 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: <b>We are Bloggers</b> In this unit, pupils will share their experiences and opinions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• become familiar with blogs as a medium and a genre of writing</li> <li>• create a sequence of blog posts on a theme</li> <li>• incorporate additional media</li> <li>• comment on the posts of others</li> <li>• develop a critical, reflective view of a range of media, including text.</li> </ul>
Spanish	<p>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</p>

	and animals associated with them and a country's position related to the equator.
<b>R.E.</b>	This term our topic will be <b>Why is Easter important to Christians?</b> 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?
<b>P.S.H.E. &amp; Citizenship</b>	Our focus this half term will be ' <b>Healthy Me.</b> ' We will also continue to develop our awareness and understanding of how we can remain physically and mentally healthy.
<b>Easter Bonnets/ Gardens</b>	<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>
<b>Homework</b>	Each Friday your child will be set literacy and numeracy tasks. These must be returned the following Tuesday. Children should continue to learn their <b>times tables</b> , which will be tested on a regular basis. Additional maths homework will be assigned on the <b>Sumdog</b> 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
<b>Key Dates</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 19th February – Children resume school  Monday 4th March – World Book Week begins  Tuesday 5th March - Parent teacher consultation meetings to share pupil targets and progress 3:45pm – 6:00pm  Wednesday 6th March - Parent teacher consultation meetings to share pupil targets and progress 3:45pm – 6:00pm  Thursday 7th March - World Book Day  Monday 11th March – Assessment week begins  Tuesday 12th March - ASD Team Coffee morning led by outside facilitator.  Friday 15th Red Nose Day and Sports Relief  Wednesday 20th March – Times tables challenge  Monday 26th March - Easter bonnets / gardens brought to school  Wednesday 27th March- 12:15pm - Birch class parents/carers invited to lunch  Thursday 28th March – Poetry recital assembly  Thursday 28th March - Easter bonnet / garden parade &amp; Easter Cake Sale  Thursday 28th March- Mufti Day - Children to dress up in Spring colours and bring £1 to school  <b>Thursday 28th March - Last day of Spring Term – school finishes at 2:00 pm</b>  <b>(There will be no enrichment or after school clubs)</b>  <b>School will resume on Monday 15th April 2024 at 8:55am.</b></p>
<b>Additional Information</b>	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.