



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

Our Topic this half term is 'The Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain'. Birch Class will begin the topic by taking part in Viking workshop at the National Maritime Museum. We will also be learning about who the Vikings were and when and why they invaded Britain. Finally, we will explore some of the ideas, beliefs and experiences of the Vikings.


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 Support Staff: Mrs Bri

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

English	<p>Our first focus text will be 'Westlandia by Paul Fieischman.' We will explore the themes and language of the text, particularly writing character descriptions, book reviews and retelling parts of the story. We will also use the grammatical skills that we have learnt to write a prospectus.</p> <p>Next, we will focus on 'Shackleton's Journey by William Grill.' We will explore the themes and language of the text by writing letters and diaries. We will also use the grammatical skills that we have learnt to write a newspaper report.</p>
New Spelling Scheme	<p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</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. Your child will also be assigned First News homework that they should read during each week. Please read and discuss the books with your child and support them with recording a comment about their reading in their reading record each week.</p>
Maths	<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 decimals; including partitioning decimals. They will continue to apply their knowledge and skills within problem-solving contexts. Each child will also learn how to use compare, order and round decimals.</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. Please encourage the daily use of TTRS and Maths frame at home. https://ttrackstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/ Times Tables – This year the year 4 children will sit the times tables test in June 2024. Please</p>

	ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.
Science	<p>Our topics this half term is 'All living things and their habitats' and 'Sustainability'.</p> <p>Big Question: How do animals and plants cohabitate?</p> <p>We will undertake a range of activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be able to gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions. To make predictions and carry out simple investigations To explore a range of habitats, micro habitat and biodiversity. To investigate the impact of deforestation on differing areas.
History/ Geography	Our Topic this half term is 'The Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain'. We will be learning about who the Vikings were and when and why they invaded Britain. We will also be exploring some of the ideas, beliefs and experiences of the Vikings.
Design & Technology	<p>DT Unit- Structure: Pavilions</p> <p>Exploring pavilion structures, children learn about what they are used for and investigate how to create strong and stable structures before designing and creating their own pavilions, complete with cladding.</p> <p>DT Lesson- Food, design and technology- Cooking and nutrition: Adapting a recipe (Biscuits)</p> <p>Additional food technology lesson -Anglo Saxons and Vikings</p>
P.E.	Birch will have PE on a Monday afternoon. Your child will need to wear their PE kit and school jumper to school on this day Please ensure your child is 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 and our Cricket sessions will be led by specialist coaches .
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 resume from Wednesday 17th April and every Tuesday thereafter until Tuesday 21st May. 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>Please note that these swimming lessons are compulsory, not optional.</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> <p>Birch Class will have the opportunity take part in the Ukulele Festival at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 30th April 2024.</p>
Spanish	In this 'My Routine' Spanish unit, Birch class will learn how to tell the time: o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. They will also begin to read timetables and TV schedules and answer simple questions about these.
R.E.	<p>This term our R.E. focus will be What happens when someone gets married?</p> <p>We will explore: What is a wedding celebration?</p> <p>Why do people choose to get married?</p> <p>What are marriage vows? What do they mean?</p>
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be ' Relationships. ' We will also continue to develop our awareness and understanding of how we can establish healthy relationships. We will also continue to explore the importance of having positive mental health.
Computing	<p>Our topic this half term is 'We are Artists.' In this unit, pupils will use geometry and art to create their own artwork.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 1 -They create simple tessellations using Inkscape Session 2 -They create more complex tessellations using Inkscape Session 3 -They create Islamic-style art using Scratch
E-safety	At Hollydale we are committed to developing an understanding of E-safety for both children and parents and carers. This covers both Internet based technologies and electronic devices such as mobile phones and wireless technology. We are keen to make children aware of both the benefits and risks of new technology.

	<p>Hollydale achieves this by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are supervised appropriately when they use the Internet. • Pupils are given clear objectives for Internet use. • Pupils are provided with lists of relevant and suitable web sites. • Pupils are aware of their responsibilities. • Curriculum planning identifies opportunities to enrich and extend learning activities via access to the Internet • Internet access is purchased through London Grid for Learning (LGFL), which provides a firewall that filters out inappropriate sites • We work with the LGFL to ensure systems to protect pupils are regularly reviewed and improved. <p>It is important that parents and carers speak to their children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. It's essential to be realistic. Banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.</p> <p><u>Websites for more information</u> https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</p>
<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, Letter join and First News.</p>
<p>Key Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 15th April -School Resumed • Thursday 18th April- Educational visit to The National Maritime Museum • Monday 22nd – Friday 26th April 2024 - Science Week • Tuesday 30th April- Performance at The Royal Festival Hall (Return to school at 4:20pm) • Friday 3rd May- Spanish Day • Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday • Monday 13th – Friday 17th May – Mental Health awareness week • Thursday 23rd May – Poetry Recital Assembly • Friday 24th May – Times tables Challenge • Friday 24th May – Mufti Day
<p>Additional Information Including Summer Uniform</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> <p>Girls Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Dresses - Red & White or Green & White Gingham • Cardigan/ Sweatshirt/V neck sweater - Dark green • Footwear - Black Shoes • Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only <p>Boys Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white • Cardigan/ Sweatshirt/V neck sweater - Dark green • Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey • Footwear - Black shoes <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

