

Hollydale Primary School: Autumn 2 2025



We hope you had a restful holiday!

Our Topic this half term is 'All Around the World. We will be learning about where the countries of the world are located, and some of the different ways that geographers describe locations. The pupils will also learn how to locate and describe places using longitude and latitude. Each pupil will find out about some of the important lines that delineate specific areas of the Earth - the Equator, the Hemispheres, the Poles and the Tropics. Finally, the pupils will develop their understanding of time zones.

Please ensure you add the dates detailed in this newsletter to your calendar. 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 – cmcgowan15.210@lgflmail.org.

Please note that on **Wednesdays** Birch class will be taught by Mr Long.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.
Regards, Ms McGowan

Class Teacher: Ms McGowan/Mr Long (Wednesdays)

Additional Support Staff: Ms Mustafa

Autumn 2 2025- This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

English	<p><u>FARThER written by Grahame Baker Smith.</u></p> <p>We will begin by exploring the concept of dreams and how important they are in our lives. We will then by exploring the text through a range of activities that include explicit grammar teaching, opportunities for shorter written outcomes and book talk. We will create a story-map of the key events from the book to write a sequel, they write a set of instruction to describe how our own flying machine works.</p> <p><u>The Iron Man written by Ted Hughes</u></p> <p>Our second 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>
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! 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>
Reading Records	<p>The children will bring home a book from the class book corner or the school library every week, with additional opportunities to swap their book if they finish early. 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>
Maths	<p>In Maths we will begin with a unit on Area. Then, we will move onto multiplication and division. Please ensure that your child knows number bonds to one hundred and 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 ensure that you are supporting and practising all times tables with your child/children.</p>

	Year 4 Times Tables Test – Next year the children will sit the times tables test in June 2026. Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.
Science	Our topic this half term is States of Matter . The children will learn how to compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. They will also observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C) Finally, they will identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.
History/ Geography	Our Geography topic this half term is 'All Around the World. We will be learning about where the countries of the world are located, and some of the different ways that geographers describe locations. The pupils will also learn how to locate and describe places using longitude and latitude. Each pupil will find out about some of the important lines that delineate specific areas of the Earth - the Equator, the Hemispheres, the Poles and the Tropics. Finally, the pupils will develop their understanding of time zones.
Art/Design & Technology	Art Topic- Painting and mixed media: Light and dark. The children will develop their colour mixing skills, using shades and tints to show form and create three dimensions when painting.
P.E. including cricket	Birch will have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays. Your child/children will need to wear their PE kit and school jumper to school on these days. Please ensure your child/children are wearing the following kit for PE: plain black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls. PE will be taught by Coach Fab and Specialist Cricket Coaches .
Music	LKS2 will have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe.
Computing	Our topic this half term is: We are makers Coding for micro: bit . In this unit, pupils create their own animation in Scratch. In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 they explore the Make Code environment and learn about the BBC micro: bit • Session 2 they work out how a match-scoring program has been written • Session 3 they modify a rock-paper-scissors game to make a sorting hat game • Session 4 they modify their sorting hat game to make a dice game • Session 5 they plan their own micro: bit project • Session 6 they write and test their own micro: bit project.
Spanish	Spanish will continue to be taught every Friday. In this unit, the pupils will learn to develop their conversational skills via some new topics: transport, direction and movement.
R.E.	Throughout the year we will be investigating the question: What is special to me and the people in my community? This term our topic will be 'Why is the Bible special for Christians?' This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about Christian scriptures – the Bible – exploring questions about what the Bible says and how the Bible is used and valued in Christian communities today.
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be 'Celebrating Difference'. We will focus on similarities and differences and teach about diversity, disability, racism, power, friendships, and conflict. The children will learn to accept everyone's right to 'difference'.
Anti-Bullying Week (10th – 14th November)	Anti-bullying week will take place across the school in the week beginning the 10 th November. Children will participate in a variety of activities throughout the week and we will be selling anti-bullying wristbands before and after school. There is a whole school home learning project to create an anti-bullying poster. On Friday the 14 th November children should wear blue clothes and odd socks and bring in a donation of £1.
Homework	We view homework as an integral part of the school experience. Active and successful pupil participation in homework supports our belief in how children learn best. Homework benefits pupils not only by promoting academic success, but also by providing valuable opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in their child's learning. Through regular homework, children develop responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. Most importantly, pupils build independence by completing school-related tasks with minimal direct help. Homework for KS1 and KS2 will continue to be completed in homework books. <u>Reading Homework</u> Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening. <u>Spelling Homework</u> Children will be given spellings to learn based on the spelling challenges and these will be tested

	<p>every three weeks. Scores will be recorded and tracked using the tracking grid and the number of spellings that are tested will vary based on children's individual needs.</p> <p><u>Homework Projects</u></p> <p>Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p> <p><u>Year 4 Homework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Times tables <p>Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</p>
Additional Information	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a bag, fresh water bottle, reading record, reading book and coat every day. They should also wear the correct school uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.</p>
Key Dates	<p>Monday 10th November: Anti-bullying week begins</p> <p>Tuesday 11th November: Remembrance Day: School council poppies fundraising projects - pupil's art work is available to purchase for £1 each.</p> <p>Friday 14th November: Odd Socks Day – Children to wear blue clothes and odd socks to show their support for anti-bullying for a £1.00 donation</p> <p>Monday 17th November: Road Safety Week begins</p> <p>Thursday 20th November: BHM themed lunch</p> <p>Friday 21st November: BHM assembly KS2 – parents invited 9:20am</p> <p>Monday 24th November: Assessment Week begins</p> <p>Wednesday 26th November: Flu Vaccinations</p> <p>Thursday 27th November: Braiswick Photographer in school (individual photos)</p> <p>Saturday 6th December: Christmas fete and cake sale – Friends of Hollydale</p> <p>Thursday 11th December: Christmas presentations at St Mary's Church at 1:45pm</p> <p>Tuesday 16th December: Times Tables challenge Years 1-6</p> <p>Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Class Parties</p> <p>Thursday 18th December: Christmas Lunch and Winter Jumper Day</p> <p>Friday 19th December: Last day of term – School finishes at 1pm</p> <p>Monday 5th January 2026: INSET DAY</p> <p>Tuesday 6th January: Children return to school</p>