

Hollydale Primary School: Summer 1 2026



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

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. 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 Dojo or by email. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Swimming for Years 3 and 4 will continue this half term. Lessons will take place on **Tuesday mornings**.

Regards, Ms McGowan

Class Teacher: Ms McGowan

Summer 1 2026 - This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| English | <p>Our first focus text will be 'Weslandia' by Paul Fleischman. We will explore the themes and language of the text, before 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>In Reading, we will be reading Viking Voyagers by Jack Tite.</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!</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> <p>The children's next spelling test will take place on Thursday 23rd April 2026.</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 by continuing our unit on Fractions. We will be exploring equivalent fractions families and equivalent fractions on a number line. We will also learn to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. We will then move on to looking at Decimals. We will learn to recognise and use tenths and hundredths and divide numbers by ten and one hundred.</p> <p>Year 4</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.</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 2026. Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.</p> |
| Science | <p>Our topic this half term is Electricity. We will undertake a range of investigations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify common appliances that run on electricity• Know how to construct electrical circuits and name their parts• Recognise common conductors and insulators |
| History/ | <p>Our History Topic this half term is The Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. We will be learning about</p> |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Geography | 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. |
| Art/Design & Technology | Our Design and Technology topic this half term is Electrical systems: Torches . Applying their scientific understanding of electrical circuits, the children will create a torch, designing and evaluating their product against set design criteria. |
| P.E. | Birch will continue to have PE on Mondays. 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 . |
| 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. This half term, lessons will take place on Tuesday mornings. 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 me. |
| Music | LKS2 will continue to have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe. Birch Class will have the opportunity take part in the Ukulele Festival at the Royal Festival Hall on Friday 8th May 2026. |
| Computing | Our topic this half term is ' We are Artists '. In this unit, pupils will use geometry and art to create their own artwork. <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 |
| Spanish | Spanish will continue to be taught every week. 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. | This term our R.E. focus will be: What happens when someone gets married? In this unit we will be thinking about... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is a wedding celebration? Why do people choose to get married? 2. What are marriage vows? What do they mean? 3. What important actions take place in a Hindu wedding ceremony? 4. What do Muslims believe about marriage? 5. What happens in a Muslim wedding? |
| 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 and maintain healthy relationships. We will also continue to explore the importance of having positive mental health. |
| 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. <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 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. <u>Homework Projects</u> Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p><u>Year 4 Homework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Times tables • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects. This term's home learning project will be linked to our Science curriculum. |
| <p>Additional information</p> | <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> |
| <p><i>Additional Information Including Summer Uniform</i></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 data-bbox="560 943 1002 1126" style="text-align: center;"> </div> |
| <p>Key Dates</p> | <p>Monday 20th April 2026 – Enrichment clubs resume this week Monday 27th April 2026 – Art Week begins! Friday 8th May 2026 – Year 4 Birch Class trip to Ukulele Festival Tuesday 19th May 2026 – Times tables challenge! Tuesday 19th May 2026 – Pickleball workshop Thursday 21st May 2026 – Poetry Recital assembly Friday 22nd May 2026 – Last day of half term. Half Term – Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May Monday 1st June 2026 – Children return to school</p> |