



Welcome back! We hope all children had a restful half term and are ready for the final summer term of the year.

Our Topic this half term is 'Whitby'. We will be learning how to identify the similarities and differences between Whitby and Hollydale Primary School. Each pupil will also learn how to describe the landscape around Whitby and identify the way land is used from a digital map.

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.

The children will be taught by Mr Long on **Wednesdays**.

Regards, Ms McGowan


Class Teacher: Ms McGowan/ Mr Long (Wednesdays)

Additional Support: Ms Mustafa

Summer 2 2026 - This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

English	<p>Our first focus text will be Varmints by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. We will be exploring a variety of text types including letters and persuasive speeches. We will then write an explanation text about the life cycle of a plant and publish this as a double page spread.</p> <p>Next, we will focus on The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. 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>
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 18th June 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 the children will begin the term by building on their mental arithmetic knowledge using multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. The children will have an opportunity to learn about money; including converting pounds and pence as well as estimating amounts of money and finding change.</p> <p>They will continue to apply their knowledge and skills within problem-solving contexts. Each child will also learn how to tell time to the minute, convert analogue times to digital times, create line graphs and recognise the different properties of shapes.</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 Animals, including humans. We will be focusing on the digestive system. The children will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey
History/ Geography	<p>This term will be a geography focus and we will be learning about Whitby. We will be learning about what it was like to live there and we will make comparisons with where we live. We will also be pen paling with another school in Whitby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where is Whitby? What is it like in Whitby? What is the landscape like in Whitby? What goes on in Whitby?
Art/Design & Technology	<p>Our Art topic this half term will be Drawing. We will be exploring how to create tone and texture in pencil drawings. Then, we will explore proportion and composition.</p>
P.E.	<p>Birch Class will have PE on Mondays and Thursdays this half term. 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.</p>
Music	<p>LKS2 will continue to have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe.</p>
Computing	<p>Our topic this half term is: We are meteorologists (Presenting the weather)</p> <p>In this unit, pupils create their own animation in Scratch. In:</p> <p>Session 1 they discuss ways to measure the weather and explore equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 2 they record the weather over a period of time using a range of methods Session 3 they analyse the weather data collected Session 4 they analyse the photographs taken and link them to data Session 5 they predict the weather and plan a weather forecast Session 6 they deliver their TV-style weather forecast and reflect on learning.
Spanish	<p>Spanish will continue to be taught every week. We will be learning how to describe the days of the week and the different types of weather. We will also start learning how we can describe the different modes of transport that are used.</p>
R.E.	<p>This term our R.E. focus will be Hinduism. We will explore Hindu worship at home and in the Mandir, and explore some of the objects used in worship and their symbolism, and how these have an impact on daily life.</p>
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	<p>Our focus this half term will be 'Changing me.' We will also continue to develop our awareness of how we change and start to think about the transition between Year 4 and Year 5.</p>
RSE (Relationship and Sex Education)	<p>Year 4 will be taught the following (RSHE) topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing and Changing- To explore the human lifecycle. Body Changes and Reproduction- To identify some basic facts about puberty, reproduction and pregnancy. What is Puberty? To learn about the physical changes associated with puberty.
Homework	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Reading Homework</u> Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening.</p> <p><u>Spelling Homework</u> Children will be given spellings to learn based on the spelling challenges and these will be tested</p>

	<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> 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 • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects. This term's home learning project will be linked to our Science curriculum.
<p>Key Dates</p>	<p>Monday 1st June 2026 – Children return to school Monday 8th June 2026 – Science Week begins! Friday 12th June 2026 – Scientist Day! Friday 19th June 2026 – Fathers' Day Sale/Event Monday 22nd June 2026 – Assessment Week begins Friday 26th June 2026 – Friends of Hollydale AGM Friday 26th June 2026 – Spanish Day! Thursday 2nd July 2026 – Poetry Recital Assembly Friday 3rd July 2026 – Sports Day! Saturday 4th July 2026 – Summer Fair Thursday 9th July 2026 – Pupils' reports will be sent home Thursday 9th July 2026 – Summer Music Concert Wednesday 15th July 2026 – Pupils' exercise books will be sent home Thursday 16th July 2026 – Transition Day – children will spend time with their new teachers in their new classroom Friday 17th July 2026 – Last Day. Cultural Day – children can wear their own clothes. School will resume on 3rd September 2026.</p>
<p>Additional Information Including Summer Uniform</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a bag, fresh water bottle, reading record and reading book 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>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>