



Birch Newsletter Autumn Term 2022

Welcome back! We hope you have all had an amazing summer break and are feeling well-rested and ready to start our new year. We are so excited to begin our school year in Birch, and to work with your lovely children again. In this letter, you will find information about what we will be covering during the Autumn Term and some useful information for the school year.

Our topics for this term are:

'Movers and Shakers', 'Remarkable Recipes' and 'Let's Explore the World'

We will start the year by making sure the children have a smooth transition from Reception or Year 1, to their new year group. We will use this time to get to know the children; we will learn about what their strengths and interests are, as well as identify any areas in which your child may need support. During this time, the children will get to know their new learning environment, new teachers and reflect on their goals for the year.

Our Movers and Shakers topic will teach the children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about the people featured and use historical models to explore their significance. In Geography, the children will be learning about the characteristics of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. They will also compare England to Somalia. Children will carry out fieldwork, collecting primary data in their locality to answer geographical questions.

In order to support our Year 1 children in their transition from the Early Years, our classroom will be set up with areas for continuous provision and much of our Year 1 curriculum will be play-based to begin with. For our Year 2 children, learning will be slightly more formal, where necessary, to reflect the more mature needs of the older children.

Phonics

The Year 1 children begin the school year by reviewing Phase 3 and 4 of the Little Wandle Phonics Programme, before moving onto Phase 5. Phonics lessons provide children with opportunities to learn new tricky words and practice oral blending, sentence reading and spelling.

The Year 2 children will continue to work through the Little Wandle Phonics Programme, studying Phase 6.

English

We endeavour to use the children's interests to inspire our English curriculum, where possible, and use lots of wonderful texts to spark their imagination and creativity. To support their transition from the Early Years, the Year 1 children will have the opportunity to mark make in every area of the classroom, to encourage them to use writing in their play. They will write labels, lists and captions and we will practise using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces correctly. Our handwriting sessions

will focus on how to form letters correctly, and when they are ready, the children will begin to use cursive writing to join their handwriting.

Throughout the half term, we will be exploring a few books from the 'Little People, Big Dreams' collection by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegea, which tell the life stories of inspirational people such as Neil Armstrong and Rosa Parks. The children will use these stories to inspire their own writing about their own interests.

The children will learn to read and follow their own simple recipes in our 'Remarkable Recipes' topic. They will design a new meal for our school menu, make their own dish and write their own recipes to share with our school kitchen staff.

Maths

In maths, we will begin the year by exploring place value which involves counting, writing and ordering numbers correctly. Year 1 will explore numbers to 20 and Year 2's focus will be on the place value of 3-digit numbers up to 200. We'll then move on to addition and subtraction, using concrete resources, and pictorial images, to support us in our understanding of this. As we move into Autumn 2, Year 1 will look at numbers up to 50 and we'll begin to explore the idea of multiplication. Year 1 children will learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and Year 2 will be introduced to the multiplication symbol and use arrays to begin to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. There will be opportunities for children to develop their problem solving and reasoning skills in every maths lesson, as well as in our classroom areas. We encourage the children to use their maths vocabulary in their discussions and explanations.

Science

Our Science topics for this half term include 'Everyday Materials' and 'Humans'.

Homework

We use the Seesaw App to issue our weekly homework tasks. Homework will be uploaded to Seesaw on a Friday and should be completed, and submitted for marking, by the following Thursday. If you don't have access to Seesaw yet, you will be sent the login details for your child as soon as an account has been set up for them.

Your child will also be given a weekly spelling list to learn, which they should practice at home. These spelling words will be a mixture of tricky words and words they are learning to spell in whichever phonics stage they are in.

Reading and Reading Records

Your child has been issued with a new Reading Record and this will be used to log your child's reading progress throughout the year. They will be expected to bring home their reading book, each day, and books will be changed on a Monday and Thursday. Please leave a comment in your child's Reading Record, when you have listened to them read at home.

Year 2 SATs

All Year 2 children will take part in the Statutory Key Stage 1 SATs in May. We try to ensure that children are as prepared as possible for these so that they feel confident. The children will not be aware that they are taking a test and we will try to ensure they are as 'low key' as possible, to ensure

that children do not feel any pressure. More information will follow, closer to the time.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

All Year 1 children will complete the Statuary Year 1 Phonics Screening Test in June. During the phonics screening, children will work 1:1 with their teacher to read a range of 'nonsense' words. These words are designed to test children's phonic knowledge. Again, the children will not be aware that they are taking a test and will have had lots of experience of these kinds of exercises leading up to the screening test. More information will follow, closer to the time.

PE

In Autumn 1 (before October half term), Birch will have their PE lesson on a Tuesday afternoon with Mrs Duffy-Smith, a specialist PE teacher from Conyers.

PE kits should be brought into school at the beginning of the week and taken home on a Friday. You will find our uniform policy on our website for more information on this. Children should not wear any jewellery on PE days.

In Autumn 2, Birch's PE lesson will switch to a Thursday.

We are thoroughly looking forward to working with your children and, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Harris and Mrs Burns

