

# Birch and Holly Autumn 2024

## WELCOME BACK!



We are delighted to have you back in school and we are very excited about the year ahead.

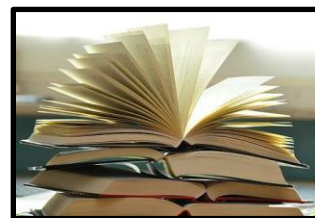
Birch Class will be taught by Mrs Sagaas and Holly Class will be taught by Mrs Coleman and Mrs Clark. We are incredibly lucky to be supported by Miss Collyer, Mrs Buttery and Mrs Thorn for this first half term and Mrs Postill will be covering PPA sessions as usual.

### Phonics

We follow the Twinkl phonics scheme across the school. This means we have a dedicated phonics session each day, focusing on particular sounds each week. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are also integrated into these lessons. We will be splitting both classes for these phonics sessions to help support the children in their learning.

### Reading

Reading continues to be our main focus. Throughout the week the children will complete a carousel of reading activities, this could take place independently, with the class teacher, or with a different adult. To boost their reading progress even further, it is essential that the children read at home as often as possible. Please could you make a note in the diaries when you read to let us know how they have got on as it helps us monitor reading progress.



Every day, we will enjoy spending time together reading our class novel. Our first focus will be looking at stories by the same author.



### Maths

We are continuing with the White Rose Maths scheme of work. This term we will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and shape. We have decided to split for Maths to ensure that we are supporting and challenging the children at the appropriate level.

**Science** Our topic this half term is Animals, Including Humans with a focus on the human aspect. We will be splitting into year groups for these sessions to ensure the children are covering the different objectives and skills.

**RE** This half term we are investigating the 'Big Question' - **How should we care for the world and for others and why does it matter?**



**Geography** This half term we will begin our geography topic 'Magical Mapping', where the children will look at a range of map skills using atlases, world maps and globes.



**Art and Design** We will start the half term with our topic called 'explore and draw'. The children will be introduced to the idea that artists are inspired by the world around them. They will become familiar with artists such as Rosie James and Alice Fox that are collectors and explorers. The children will then go into our school grounds to collect and create patterns with nature, they will then draw what they have collected in their sketchbooks.

**Design and Technology** We are learning about eating a balanced diet. We will name the main food groups and identify foods that belong to each group. We will describe the taste, texture and smell of food and use this knowledge to consider flavour combinations in a wrap. We will then design a wrap that meets a design brief before making and evaluating our finished product.



## PE

**Birch Class - PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday.**

**Holly Class - PE will take place on Wednesday and Friday.**

Please could you make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit and that they will be warm enough for outdoor PE and playtimes. As per the information shared by Miss Tams regarding PE kits, children's earrings must be removed for PE. This should happen at home on PE days as adults in school are not allowed to help the children remove them. Long hair must also be tied up for PE (it is useful if long hair is always tied up to help with concentration and our little friends that like to visit us!)



### **Seesaw**

We will be using Seesaw to show you glimpses from school life and as a means of communication. If you have a message that is urgent, to report absences and changing collection details should always be sent through the office. For anything that is not urgent, Seesaw is perfect. Please be aware that we may not be able to respond immediately and any messages sent in the evening will not be responded to until the following day.

### **Homework**

This year, we are focussing homework across school on the importance of reading, spellings and number fluency (such as number bonds (Y1) and multiplication facts (Y2). To achieve this, please help your child to:

- ~ Read daily for 15-20 mins. This is important even for accomplished readers to help improve fluency, accuracy and comprehension. Remember to record in planners.
- ~ Phonics information sheets will let you know the sounds or grammar focus the children have been working on during the week and contain ideas to help reinforce this learning at home.
- ~ Hit The Button is a really good website to help the children practice a range of number fluency facts.
- ~ For the children in Year 2, TTRockstars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help children master their times tables! Log on details are in the front of your child's planners. Any questions or problems please let us know.



### **Things my child needs** (in a small bag):

Reading book and planner, water bottle (not with the reading book please!), a coat, an optional healthy snack (daily fruit will still be offered to KS1 children). Please make sure your child is prepared whatever the weather with an appropriate coat, suitable footwear and if necessary a named sunhat. It could also be beneficial for the children to have a spare pair of pants and socks just in case! We will be using the field as often as possible all year round so the children will need wellies to be kept in school.

### **Dates for your diary**

2nd October 4-5pm a phonics/reading evening

21st October 9.30am Harvest Festival at church (time to be confirmed)

25th October last day of Autumn term 1.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Clark, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Sagaas.