

Birch and Holly Spring 2025

Happy New Year!



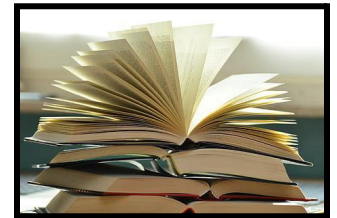
A huge thank you! Firstly, the entire Key Stage 1 team would like to say a huge thank you for the lovely cards, gift cards and thoughtful gifts we received over Christmas. We loved all the effort the children had made with their Christmas cards too! We really appreciate all your generosity.

Writing

We will continue producing meaningful and purposeful writing linked to our topics to help the children build their stamina when it comes to writing extended pieces. They will have the opportunity to show off their writing skills and creativity. We are starting the new term off with our new topic of The Great Fire of London, writing about London today and in the past.

Reading

Reading remains a real priority for us in Key Stage 1. 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. This could also include when the children are reading a book of their own choice.



Maths

We follow the White Rose Maths scheme of work. In Year 2 this term we will complete our work on shape before completing units on money, multiplication and division, length and height and mass, capacity and temperature. The Year 1 units for Spring 1 are shape, place value within 20 and addition and subtraction within 20,



History

The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by learning about what London was like in the 17th century through our topic The Great Fire of London. They will compare life in the 17th century to the present day and consider how some problems, such as the lack of an organised fire brigade and the type of buildings, caused the fire to spread. Children will then focus on how and why some things changed as a result of the fire, in order to be safer.

RE

In RE this half term we will be learning about Islam. We will look at what is important to Muslims by researching the five pillars of Islam and will listen to stories about the prophet, reflecting on how Muslims use these to guide their beliefs and actions.

Art & Design

This term we will focus on 3D Form with our topic 'Be an Architect'. The children will become familiar with the term 'architecture' and architecture in their local area and we will engage in discussions about local landmarks. The children have already loved making sketches of various architectural buildings around the world, zooming in on Google Maps. They will then start with an exploration of architects and some of the ways they work. The children will then go on to create their own architectural model.



PE

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

Holly Class - PE will take place on Monday and Thursday.

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. (Please make sure PE jumpers are names - we are really struggling to hand them out at the end of the day - we are not as expert at the sniff and sort test as the children!) 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 continue using Seesaw as a means of communication. If you have a message that is urgent on the day, the best way to make sure that we receive it is to call the school. For anything that is not urgent Seesaw is the best way to contact us. Please be aware that we may not be able to respond immediately and any messages sent in the evening may 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 your child needs (in a small bag)

Reading book and planner, water bottle (washed daily at home please), coat, (every day please), an optional healthy snack (daily fruit will still be offered to KS1 children).

The children also need wellies as we will be going on the field in all weathers. It could also be beneficial for the children to have a spare pair of pants and socks just in case! Spare bottoms could also be useful at this time of year with all the wet weather!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 16th January - Special Lunch - Census Day

Tuesday 5th February - Monday 10th February - Book Fair

Thursday 13th February - last day of Spring term 1 for children.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Mrs Clark, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Sagaas