



Summer 2 2017: This half term Birch Class will be learning about the following topics:

English	This term, we will be continuing to read <i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i> by Shirley Hughes. We will be focusing on inferring the thoughts and feelings of different characters in role, before writing and publishing our own versions of the story, writing from a different point of view. We will then move on to focus on <i>The Tempest</i> by William Shakespeare. We will write character profiles of the key characters and practise performing plays with expression. We will also create non-chronological reports on the life of William Shakespeare and why his plays were important. This term, children will continue to be taught spelling in small groups. We will continue to focus on the Year 3/4 spelling rules and patterns.
Reading Records & Passports	The children will bring home a book from the school library every Tuesday and can choose books from the book corner to take home at any time. Please read and discuss the book with your child and record this in the reading record. Your child should also make a comment about their reading. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record in school every day. When your child has read a whole book, they record the title and author of the book in their reading passport and inform the class teacher. Any child who reads 10 books in a term will be entered into a competition to win a book token and a visit to a local bookshop.
Maths	This term, Birch will consolidate the formal written methods (expanded and short) for all four operations. We will also continue to develop our mental methods such as estimating and checking using the inverse; as well as deciding whether the formal or mental method is the most efficient way of solving a problem. We will continue to practise all times tables to 12 <i>as well as related division facts</i> . It is essential that your child practises these times tables at home, as well as practising quick recall of pairs of numbers which make 10, 20 and 100. We will be finding fractions of amounts and equivalent fractions/decimals (e.g. $\frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$ or $0.1 = \frac{1}{10}$). We will also be working on measuring the length, mass & capacity of objects, and calculating the area and perimeter of shapes. We will continue to solve worded and reasoning problems using all the mathematical skills and knowledge we have learned throughout the year.
Science	This half term, we will be continuing to focus on Light, particularly on how light from the sun can be dangerous and how to protect our eyes. We will also be setting up fair tests and observing over time to monitor how the size and position of shadows changes throughout the day. We will be concentrating on recording our findings with labelled diagrams and in tables and bar charts.
Computing	Our ICT this term will be delivered by a specialist teacher on Friday morning. We will be focusing on data handling, creating graphs and charts digitally.
IPC	This term our topic will be 'Active Planet'. Children will be learning about the structure of the Earth's crust and how tectonic plates create earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. We will also be finding out about what is inside a volcano and why it erupts. We will make our own earthquake-proof buildings and volcano eruptions, as well as discussing why people live in a volcanic regions, comparing living conditions there with our own.
Modern Languages	Spanish will be taught by our specialist teacher. The children will be focusing on asking and answering basic questions and giving some simple information about themselves in Spanish.
Art	We will be developing our knowledge of printing/ painting techniques in the style of Hokusai, a Japanese woodcut artist.
P.E.	Birch will be swimming this term. Swimming lessons will take place on Friday morning. It is essential that your child brings their swimming kit with them on this day.
Music	Birch Class will have ukulele lessons from a specialist teacher every Thursday. Birch will also continue working with the Multi-Story orchestra (residents at Bold Tendencies multi-storey car park in Peckham Rye).
R.E.	Our topic this term will continue to be Sikhism. Children will learn about the importance and features of a Sikh place of worship. They will be comparing key elements of the Sikh faith with other religions that they have learned about.
P.S.H.C.E.	Our focus this half term will be 'Changing Me'. Year 4 children will also be attending an SRE session with the school nurse in line with the Science/PSHCE curriculum.
Key dates	<p>Trip to Sikh Gurdwara - 15/06/17 Nunhead Library visit- 23/06/17 Year 4 SRE with the school nurse - 20/06/17 Public performance with the Multi-Story Orchestra on 07/07/17 at 6:30pm. Collection of reports - 10/07/17 End of year visit to Dulwich Picture House for Beauty and the Beast - 17/7/17</p> <p><u>If you can accompany us on any of our educational visits, please advise a member of the team.</u></p>
Homework	A variety of cross curricular homework tasks will now be assigned at the start of the half term. Each week your child will select one task to complete, to be returned on Tuesday. Children should continue to learn their times tables , which will be tested on a regular basis and additional maths homework will be assigned on the Mathletics website, for which each child has a sign on. Children should also learn spellings will be sent home on Mondays and tested the following week.

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to come and see the Birch Class team. Thank you for your support and co-operation. Teacher: Miss Bishop
 Teaching Assistant: Ms Lewis**