



Happy New Year!



Welcome back. We hope you and your families had a wonderful break.

Our Topic this half term is 'Active Planet'. We will be learning about all aspects of volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Pupils will complete the topic by creating a model of a volcano which they will erupt in spectacular style!

Please come and join us for our class assembly to celebrate what we have been learning across the whole curriculum.

If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Birch Class life, please do not hesitate to come and see me before or after school. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Regards, *Miss Macdonald*

Class Teacher – Miss Macdonald
Support Staff: Ms Rebbeck and Miss Gabriel

Spring 1 2019 - This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

English	We will begin the term by reading 'The Day I swapped my Dad for two Goldfish' by Neil Gaiman. We will read and discuss the story, identifying the different characters and voices by using dramatised reading. We will identify the features and conventions of written dialogue and use of speech marks, demonstrate and then write dialogue. We will use a playscript to identify and highlight features and then write and perform a play script where a piece of the text is converted. We will then go on to create an entirely new scene for a pilot for a TV show. Using the 'First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein' we will write diary entries, explore the conventions of speech, create character descriptions and finish by writing our own historical narratives. Grammar will be focusing on subordinate clauses. Spelling lists will be sent home on Mondays and tested the following week. We will continue to focus on the Year 3/4 spelling rules and patterns such as prefixes and suffixes.
Reading Records	The children will bring home a book from the class book corner or the school library every night. Please read and discuss the book with your child. Children must record in the reading records every time they read at home. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record inside every day.
Maths	In Numeracy pupils will consolidate our knowledge of efficient mental and written methods of multiplication and division. We will then move onto finding the area of shapes. Before studying fractions: finding equivalent fractions; adding and

	<p>subtracting fractions; and finding fractions of quantities.</p> <p>Please ensure that your child knows number bonds to one hundred and all times tables and related division facts (1-12) —it is vital that children know these in order to progress in numeracy.</p>
Science	<p>Our topic this half term is States of Matter. We will undertake a range of investigations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare and group materials together, according to whether their properties • observe how some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, • measure or research the temperature at which materials change state in degrees Celsius (°C) • identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle
Computing	<p>Computing this half term will focus on researching online safely. We will create a presentation using the app Explain Everything. We will search for images/information on volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunami to make a presentation.</p>
History/ Geography	<p>This term we will study our Active Planet. This is a history topic in which we will be learning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To describe and understand what is under the Earth’s surface. • To describe and understand how volcanoes are formed and how they affect people’s lives. • To describe and understand what causes earthquakes and how they are measured. • Describe and understand what causes tsunamis and how they affect people.
Art & Design	<p>We will be creating prints and pastel drawings inspired by Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai.</p>
Design and Technology	<p>As part of the ‘Adopt a Chef’ scheme, a trained chef (Ashley Marsh) will be teaching us a range of cooking skills in three weekly sessions.</p>
P.E.	<p>Birch will have PE on a Wednesday morning. Please ensure that your child/children have the following kit for PE: Black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls. We are welcoming a new coach to the Sports team.</p> <p>This term we will be playing Hockey. Our focus will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a range of techniques when playing hockey games • Look at different passes used in hockey • Change direction and speed when dribbling the ball • Show growing consistency and control in games • Play with greater speed and flow in games • Use a range of tactics to keep possession of the ball and get into positions to shoot or score
Music	<p>LKS2 will have ukulele lessons from a specialist teacher. We will be performing as part of ukulele festival at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 5th February.</p>
R.E.	<p>Throughout the year we will be investigating the question: What is special to me and the people in my community? This term our topic will be: What makes me the person I am?</p>

	<p>We will be considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who influences our life? • Who or what influenced the life of St Francis? • Who are or what influenced the life of Pandurang Shastri Athavale? • What objects are special to people in my community? • What things do I care about in my community? • What can I do to help improve my community?
Modern Languages	Spanish will be taught by our specialist teacher.
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	<p>Our focus this half term will be “Dreams and Goals” in which we will explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to stay motivated when doing something challenging • Setting and achieving a goal • Overcoming Disappointment
Homework	<p>Each Friday your child will be set literacy and numeracy tasks. These must be returned the following Tuesday. Children should continue to learn their times tables, which will be tested on a regular basis. Children can practice using Timestable Rockstars, for which they have their own login. Additional maths homework will be assigned on the Mathletics website, for which each child also has their own username and password. Children should also learn spellings which will be sent home every week and tested the following week.</p>
Key dates	<p>Friday 11th January – educational visit to the Natural History Museum Monday 14th January: Enrichment clubs to begin Wednesday 16th January: Speech and Language Workshop Coffee morning for parents 9:15am – 10:15am Friday 18th January – Year 4 cooking workshops begin (3 weekly sessions) Monday 28th January: Maths week begins Tuesday 29th January: Maths workshops Thursday 31st January: Birch Class Assembly 9:20am. Parents to be invited. Friday 1st February: NSPCC Number Day Monday 4th February: Assessment week Tuesday 5th February: Ukulele Festival at the Festival Hall Friday 8th February: Chinese New Year workshops 27th March and 15th May 2019 - Parent Lunch</p>