

Woeful World War II



A word from us... Dear parents and children, we hope you have all enjoyed the half term break and are looking forward to another exciting half term in Year 4! We have really enjoyed our topic so far and in Science we have been very busy with lots of investigations. We have our Sparkle day on Wednesday 4th which we are sure everyone will enjoy. This half term, **Games with Coach Chris will continue on a Tuesday** afternoon and **PE will be on a Friday** afternoon. **Please ensure that children come to school in their kits on these days, with earrings removed and hair tied back.** All children should bring in a fruit snack for morning playtime as well as a filled water bottle everyday please. Following baseline assessments it was decided that spellings tests would not begin last half term. We now plan to introduce the first new rule to children on Monday 16th November with the first test being held on Monday 30th November. Spellings will be sent home in a spelling books which must be returned to school each Monday please for them to practise and complete their test in. Please help your child practise their spellings regularly at home. Our times tables test are going well each Friday and many children are enjoying the sense of achievement having practised hard on TT Rockstars. Please continue to practise these important skills with your child at home. A reminder to please read with your child regularly. Even though many children by now may be reading independently, it is still important they are listened to and an adult questions them about their reading to ensure they are developing their understanding and comprehension skills. Once your child has completed their book, please sign to confirm it has been read and record any comments. We encourage children to complete a short book review before changing their book. Due to protective measures and the requirement to place returned books out of use for 72 hours, we will continue changing books once a week per child on **either Tuesdays or Fridays**. Please ensure your child's book and diary are in school to change on one of these days as they will not be able to change their book on other days during the week. If you have any questions about your child's learning please send an email - jferretti@birches.staffs.sch.uk / kcain@birches.staffs.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

English In English this term we will be focusing on Fairy Tales. Using the story of Cinderella as a base text we will explore character and setting descriptions and develop the structure of our narrative writing. We will also enjoy reading different versions of the tale, making comparisons and using this to plan our own tales. In addition to this we have a unit on image poems and discussion texts where the children will develop their skills of presenting different opinions. Throughout these units we will be developing, using and applying a range of sentence level skills.

Arts / Design Technology The children will engage with a range of activities using their artistic and DT skills through our topic by making air raid shelters, harbours and fighter planes as well as through wider celebrations such as Remembrance Day, Multifaith Day and Christmas. In our Art unit we will be exploring and practising 'formal elements of art.

Music - The children will be exploring rhythm and developing their understanding of different styles of music as they continue a unit focusing on the music of ABBA!

Computing - Coding

MFL (French) - Understanding classroom instructions, counting, landmarks

Humanities As our topic continues, the children will learn about the events in Dunkirk and how they are significant as well as using research skills to find out about the Blitz and the Battle of Britain and some of the planes that were used. We will continue to develop our history and geography skills as we use maps and consider how different sources of information can be used and whether they are all reliable!

Maths

This half term we move onto Addition and Subtraction. The children will use the Place Value skills and concepts developed last half term to explore practical, pictorial and written methods when adding and subtracting numbers. Later in the term, we will move onto Measures, exploring length and perimeter as well as a unit of Multiplication and Division. A reminder that Year 4 children are required to take a timed Multiplication Check during the summer term - please keep practising these skills on TTrockstars!

Science / STEM The children will be learning about electricity. The children will be constructing simple series electrical circuits, identifying the components. Through investigation and experimentation the children will find out how to light lamps, identify the use of switches and test conductors and insulators. They will have a go at making and testing their own switches.

Religious Education - Environment, Landmarks in Life

PE / Games - PE/Games kit to be worn on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday**. Dance focus.

PSHE / British Values - Me and My Relationships/ Rule of Law.