



**Welcome back!** I hope that you and the children have had a very enjoyable Christmas break and I wish you all a happy new year! I would like to say a huge thank you for all the cards, gifts and kind messages at the end of term. We look forward to another exciting term packed with learning and fun, starting with our new topic 'Fabulously Famous'. Following the success of our showcase days last term, a new homework grid will be uploaded this week and I look forward to seeing children's creativity flourish again this term. **Spellings** - This half term we will begin to introduce children to new spelling rules. Children will be introduced to their first new rule on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and the first spelling test will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Spellings will be sent home in spelling books which must be returned to school each Monday for them to practise and complete their test in. Please help your child to practise their spellings regularly at home. The full list of common exception words alongside other useful home learning resources can be accessed on the website under the 'Year 2 Home Learning' tab. Reading books will be issued this week following our updated reading scheme – thank you for your patience with this. Please continue to ensure that children are reading each night and change their book at least once per week. As always, once your child has completed their book, please comment and sign their reading communication diary so we know it is ready to be changed. **Reading books can be changed on a Monday and/ or a Thursday**. Rapid Phonics books will continue to be allocated online. We encourage children to complete a short book review before changing their book. Please continue to encourage your child to access Numbots throughout the week to consolidate their Maths learning. Access will continue to be monitored. Thank you for your support with this. **Games with Coach Chris will continue on a Monday and PE will take place on a Friday**. Children should **come to school dressed in their Games kit on these days with earrings removed– please ensure hoodies are named**. As a reminder, children should continue to bring a filled, named water bottle every day to school. As always, should you have any questions about your child's learning, please send me an email, [shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Best wishes, Miss Hulme

**Y2 dates to note this half term – Sparkle day, SATs information, Chinese New Year, Mid-year reports, Safer Internet Day, Fairtrade Fortnight, World Book Day, Sports Relief.**

### English

This term, we will continue to read a range of quality texts to develop pleasure in reading and improve our comprehension skills. The children have chosen the books that they would like to share during ERIC time for our class library. We will be learning about the features of instructions in order for us to write our own set of instructions. We will also be learning about fantasy stories and write our own fantasy story about a dragon. We will focus on using adjectives and descriptive phrases and begin to use conjunctions to extend our sentences.

**Arts / Design Technology / Music** During our topic we will be learning about great artists such as Van Gogh and L.S Lowry and the children will describe the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, making links to their own work. During our Art and Design block later in the term, we will explore sculpture and mixed media. In Design Technology, we will be learning about mechanisms in order to invent our own fairground wheel. As musicians, we will become more confident with naming a range of instruments and listen to high-quality music. We will begin to develop composition skills by experimenting with the inter-related dimensions of music.

**Religious Education** We will talk about how symbolic actions, gestures and rituals are used as part of worship & ceremonies, and in daily lives of believers in different religions.

**Computing** After consolidation our learning on Coding, we will extend our computer skills by using and creating spreadsheets. Then we will learn to use 2Paint to create pictures using technology.

### History and Geography



Our topic will provide opportunities for children to develop their historical knowledge and understanding of the lives and significance of important individuals in the past who have contributed to both national and international achievements. We will also explore a local history link with Queen Victoria and the Man on the horse statue. As geographers, the children will also recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features whilst developing map skills.

**Maths** Our focus for the first part of the term will be consolidating our addition skills. We will then move onto subtraction methods involving 2-digit numbers. Throughout the term, we will continue to develop and use our mental methods focusing on numbers bonds to 10, 20 and 100 whilst exploring related facts. We will continue to use concrete materials, pictorial methods and abstract methods to consolidate our understanding. Later in the term, we will also demonstrate our ability to recall and use multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will demonstrate our confidence in these skills by reasoning and solving problems.

### Science / STEM

This term, the children will be continuing their learning on Everyday Materials before moving onto Animals including Humans. We will learn about how animals and humans change as they grow and we will find out about the basic needs of animals and humans, for survival. By 'working scientifically' children will explore the effects of exercise on their bodies and understand its importance. We will learn about different food types and understand why it is important to be hygienic.

**PE / Games** We will develop agility, balance and co-ordination within our Gymnastics lessons. We will continue to develop fundamental movement skills with Coach Chris in Games.

**Games Kit – Monday**

**PE Kit – Friday**

**PSHE** Me and My Safety: Our PSHE focus will allow us explore safe and unsafe situations and how to deal with these.

**British Values Focus:** Democracy **Birches Values Focus:** Curiosity