

Commotion in the Ocean



Welcome back! I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Easter break and managed to spend a little more time outdoors! We look forward to another exciting term and starting our new topic 'Commotion in the Ocean'. A new homework grid has been uploaded to the website.

Spellings - We will again begin to introduce children to new spelling rules and spellings will be **tested weekly on a Monday**. 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. A full list of common exception words alongside other useful home learning resources can be accessed on the 'Year 2 Home Learning' tab.

Reading Books - Reading books will continue to be issued and changed on a **Monday and/ or Thursday**. Please continue to ensure that children are reading each night and change their book at least once per week. It is vital that children discuss what they have read and any new vocabulary to further develop their comprehension skills. 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. We encourage children to complete a short book review before changing their book.

Numbots/ MyMaths/ TTRockstars - Please continue to encourage your child to access Numbots throughout the week to consolidate their Maths learning. As we begin to learn and apply our multiplication and division skills, children will be given access to TTRockstars - more details about this will be provided. MyMaths tasks will be added during the term to consolidate skills and a text will be sent when new tasks are added. Access will continue to be monitored.

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**. As the weather starts to get warmer, **please ensure hoodies are named**.

As a reminder, children should continue to bring a named water bottle filled with water every day to school. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch and I will get back to you as soon as possible; shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Best wishes, Miss Hulme

Y2 dates to note this half term - St George's Day, May Bank Holiday, Science Day, Class Photographs.

English

This term, we will be focusing on developing our written comprehension skills whilst reading a range of quality texts. During our English lessons, we will be exploring stories by Oliver Jeffers, making comparisons and developing our sentence level skills to retell a story. Later in the term, we will be writing non-chronological reports and recounts linked to our topic before starting a unit on Adventure Stories. We will focus on using adjectives and descriptive phrases and begin to use a range of conjunctions to extend our sentences.

History and Geography



Our topic will provide opportunities for children to build their knowledge of the oceans, seas and continents around the world. We will be developing our mapping skills and locate physical and human features.

Throughout the topic, children will explore what causes waves in the sea and what effect they have on beaches and coastlines. We will explore the Galapagos Islands in detail and recognise how boats, sea life and communication have changed over time.

Maths Our focus for the first part of the term will be consolidating our addition and subtraction skills to ensure children can confidently add and subtract with 2-digit numbers. Throughout the unit, we will develop and use our mental methods alongside exploring related facts. We will then move onto multiplication and division where we will focus on recognising and making equal groups. The children will use concrete manipulatives to explore these concepts thoroughly before moving onto pictorial and abstract methods. Later in the term, we will then demonstrate our ability to recall and use multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Arts / Design Technology/ Music During Design and Technology, the children will learn about pivots, levers and linkages before designing their own sea creature which will move using a linkage mechanism. During our Art and Design block later in the term, we will develop our skills in: design, drawing, craft, painting and art appreciation whilst exploring tone and colour in more detail. 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.

Science / STEM

This term, the children will be learning about Plants. They will begin the topic by identifying and naming a variety of common wild and garden plants. The children will be able to describe the basic structure of a plant and by 'working scientifically', the children will observe and describe how seeds/ bulbs grow into mature plants. Through investigations, we will find out and describe what plants need to grow well and stay healthy. Throughout the topic, the children will observe and describe how plants have developed over time.

Religious Education We will talk about storytelling through sacred writings. We will understand why people tell stories that have a meaning in different faith communities.

Computing Throughout our Computing lessons, the children will be introduced to the 2PaintaPicture program to create pictures using technology. We will be inspired by different artists and create/ replicate work in their style.

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 Other People: Our PSHE focus will allow us to identify and respect the similarities and differences between people.

British Values Focus: Tolerance

Birches Values Focus: Enthusiasm