

Kings and Queens



Welcome to Year 2! We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and we would like to welcome your families back to school ready for another exciting school year ahead; we can't wait to get to know the children in Year 2 and share their learning journey with them.

Homework Grid: We are looking forward to starting this term's topic with the children: 'Kings and Queens'. A new homework grid has been uploaded to the website and we look forward to seeing the children's creativity flourish during our showcase days.

PE/ Games: This term **Coach Chris's Games lessons** will be on a **Friday morning** and PE will take place on a **Wednesday afternoon**. Please ensure PE kit comes to school on a Monday morning and we will send it home on a Friday. As a reminder, earrings should not to be worn on PE days or your child must remove them themselves. Long hair should also be tied up.

Spellings: **Spellings will be tested weekly on a Friday; please practise regularly with your child.** The full list of common exception words alongside other useful home learning resources can be accessed on the website under the 'Classes>Year 2 Home Learning' tab.

Reading Books: Please ensure that children are reading each night. Examples of VIPERS to support the discussion with your child after reading can be found in your child's reading diary. Once your child has completed their book, please record comments and sign their reading communication diary. Reading books can be changed as required but should be changed at least once per week. Reading to your child and talking to them about stories and books is also extremely beneficial.

Water Bottles: Please ensure children continue to bring a filled, named water bottle to school every day – water only please.

Should you have any questions, queries or concerns, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send us an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Best wishes, Miss Hulme (shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk) and Mrs. Kandola (kkandola@birches.staffs.sch.uk)

Y2 dates to note this half term – Roald Dahl Day (school based activities – no dressing up), Jeans for Genes Day, Meet the teacher, Individual and sibling photographs, Grandparents Day, Dyslexia Friendly Awareness Week, Parent interviews, Harvest Assembly, School Council Fundraising Day

English This term, we will be reading a range of quality texts to develop pleasure in reading. We will be exploring the genre specific features of Traditional Tales to develop our sentence skills. We will enjoy reading alternative versions of traditional tales and use this to write our own alternative ending. We will also be learning about the features of instructions in order for us to write our own. We will continue to embed our phonics skills within written and reading activities.

Art and Design We will explore the formal elements of art: pattern, texture and tone. Children will create printed patterns using everyday objects; take rubbings using different media and learn how to make their drawings three dimensional.

Design Technology The children will help Baby Bear by making him a brand new chair, exploring different shapes and materials.

Music During music, children will become more familiar with the inter-related dimensions of music and experience a range of music from different cultures.

Religious Education We will explore stories from different religious traditions and find out about attitudes to the natural world.

Computing Our online safety skills will be consolidated and we will be introduced to emails using Purple Mash. We will be exploring our digital footprints and understand how to stay safe online.

Geography

As Geographers, the children will explore the school site and local area.

They will develop their basic mapping skills and will begin to plan a route using compass directions.

History

Our first History topic will allow children to explore how monarchs have changed over time.

They will also explore local links with Queen Victoria and King Charles II. This will allow for the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of chronology and identify how things have changed or stayed the same over time.

Maths For the first part of the term will focus on developing place value skills which will be embedded throughout the curriculum. Children will recognise the place value of each digit in a two digit number and read/write numbers to at least 100. Children will also demonstrate their ability to identify, represent and estimate using different representations. We will continue to develop and use concrete materials, pictorial methods and abstract methods to support our learning.

Science / STEM This term we will be developing an understanding of the uses of everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. By 'working scientifically' children will explore the useful properties of different materials and compare the suitability of different everyday materials for different purposes. They will explore how objects made from some materials can change shape and how the recycling process works.

PE / Games We will learn a range of playground games focusing on teamwork, co-ordination and balance. We will develop fundamental movement skills with Coach Chris in Games.

PSHE/ RSE Me and My School: We will explore issues relevant to the start of the school year including class rules and school council.

British Values Focus: Individual Liberty

Birches Values Focus: Independence