

Great Fire of London



Welcome back! We can hardly believe that the children have been in Year 2 for half a year already! They have made so much progress and we look forward to sharing this with you at our parent-class/ book look. As always, we would like to thank you for all of your support over the last half term. Should you have any questions about your child's learning/ wellbeing, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email, shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk/ kkandola@birches.staffs.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Year 2 Parent Information:

Spellings - Spellings will continue to be uploaded to the school website. Their spelling book must be returned to school each Friday for them to complete their test in. Please help your child to practise their spellings regularly at home and look over any errors the children have made during the previous week.

Home Learning – A 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. Optional Maths home learning is being sent home weekly. Please return to school for marking. Knowledge organisers are available on the school website to support children at home. Y2 writing mats have been uploaded to the school website to support any writing at home. Please feel free to send in any writing for feedback. Handwriting books are sent home fortnightly – please complete 3 lines of each join/ letter and a line of each word.

Reading Books - 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. VIPERS can be found in the back of your child's reading diary to help with comprehension skills.

Numbots/ TTRockstars - Please continue to encourage your child to access Numbots/ TTRockstars throughout the week to consolidate their Maths learning. Access will continue to be monitored. Thank you for your support with this. Children will be tested on their times tables every Friday.

PE/ Games - Games with Coach Chris will continue on a Friday and PE will take place on a Wednesday. As a reminder, PE kits should be sent into school on a Monday and come home on a Friday. Please ensure all jewellery (including earrings and watches) are removed.

As a reminder, children should continue to bring a filled, named water bottle every day to school. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.
Best wishes, Miss Hulme and Mrs Kandola

Y2 dates to note this half term – Y2 Trip to Thinktank, SATs information, Parent Book Look, World Book Day, Julia Donaldson Visit (more information to follow), Red Nose Day.

English

This term, we will continue to read a range of quality, age-appropriate texts to develop pleasure in reading and improve our comprehension skills. We will be learning about the features of fantasy stories to write our own fantasy story about a dragon. We will also be developing our understanding of recounts by writing an eyewitness account linked to our History learning. We will focus on using a range of conjunctions to extend our sentences, as well as using a range of sentence types within our writing.

Arts We will develop our Art and Design Skills by replicating the recognisable crockery of Clarice Cliff, exploring tone through shading, developing weaving skills, the manipulation of clay and experimenting with brush strokes.

Design Technology We will explore textiles as an introduction to sewing. We will make our own template, accurately cut our fabric and sew a basic running stitch when making a pouch.

Music As musicians, we will use instruments to represent animals. We will copy rhythms, learn a traditional African call and response song and recognise simple notation, progressing to creating animal-based call and response rhythms.

Religious Education We will identify the importance for some people of belonging to a religion and recognise the difference this makes to their lives.

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.

Geography

We will begin by studying the UK, focusing on the 4 countries of the UK and their capital cities. We will look at where London is and identify its landmarks.

History

We will be travelling back to the 17th century to discover what happened during the Great Fire of London. By using a range of artefacts, we are going to be looking at the causes of the fire, how the fire spread, the impact the fire had and how life changed after this historical event. Children will learn how to compare old London to present London, use their enquiry skills to identify the similarities and differences and learn to sequence the main events on a timeline using historical vocabulary and dates to order them.

Maths We will build on our Year 1 knowledge of recognising 2D shapes to begin describing properties of 2D and 3D shapes using the key words: vertices, polygon, quadrilateral, symmetry, faces, sides and edges. We will then use this to help us compare and sort common 2D and 3D shapes. We will then be developing our understanding of fractions by recognising, finding and naming fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$). The children will understand the importance of equal parts with fractions and use this to help them find the fraction of a number. We will identify the relationship between different fractions such as halves and quarters to develop a greater understanding of fractions.

Science / STEM

We will be continuing with our Science topic of: 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 continue to use simple movement patterns in Dance showing control, co-ordination and varying level, direction and speed. We will continue to develop fundamental movement skills with Coach Chris in Games.

PSHE We will be developing an understanding of safety: roads and medicines and an introduction to online safety; distinguishing secrets from surprises; naming body parts and looking at the concept of privacy.

British Values Focus: Mutual Respect

Birches Values Focus: Honesty