



Birches First School  
Believe, Grow, Succeed



## School Closure Home Learning

### Year 4 Daily Tasks

Date: 21/4/20

Reading – if you have a copy of ‘Bill’s New Frock’ by Anne Fine or ‘The Boy in the Dress’ by David Walliams these were due to be the focus texts for this half term if you wish to read them at home.

#### Reading task - Vocabulary

Reread the first part of chapter one from ‘Bill’s New Frock’ and then use a dictionary to check the meaning of words that you have read whilst reading. When you encounter unfamiliar words develop your understanding of these words and widen your vocabulary by looking them up in a dictionary. Record new words and their definitions in your home learning book.

#### Chapter 1 -

#### A really awful start

When Bill Simpson woke up on Monday morning, he found he was a girl.

He was still standing staring at himself in the mirror, quite baffled, when his mother swept in.

“Why don’t you wear this pretty pink dress?” she said.

“I *never* wear dresses,” Bill burst out.

“I know,” his mother said. “It’s such a pity.”

And to his astonishment, before he could even begin to argue, she had dropped the dress over his head and zipped up the back.

"I'll leave you to do up the shell buttons," she said "they're a bit fiddly and I'm late for work."

And she swept out, leaving him staring in dismay at the mirror. In it, a girl with his curly red hair and wearing a pretty pink frock with fiddly shell buttons was staring back at him in equal dismay.

"This can't be true," Bill Simpson said to himself. "This cannot be true!"

He stepped out of his bedroom just as his father was rushing past. He, too, was late in getting off to work.

Mr Simpson leaned over and planted a kiss on Bill's cheek.

"Bye, Poppet," he said, ruffling Bill's curls. "You look very sweet today. It's not often we see you in a frock, is it?"

He ran down the stairs and out of the house so quickly he didn't see Bill's scowl, or hear what he muttered savagely under his breath.

Bella the cat didn't seem to notice any difference. She purred and rubbed her soft furry body around his ankles in exactly the same way as she always did.

And Bill found himself spooning up his cornflakes as usual. It was as if he couldn't help it. He left the house at the usual time, too. He didn't seem to have any choice. Things, though odd, were just going on in their own way, as in a dream.

Or it could be a nightmare! For hanging about on the corner was the gang of boys from the other school. Bill recognised the one they called Mean Malcolm in his purple studded jacket.

I think I'll go round the long way instead, Bill thought to himself. I don't want to be tripped up in one of their nasty scuffles, like last week, when all the scabs were kicked off my ankle.

Then Bill heard the most piercing whistle. He looked around to see where the noise was coming from, then realised Mean Malcolm was whistling at him!

Bill Simpson blushes so pink that all his freckles disappeared. He felt so foolish he forgot to turn off at the next corner to go the long way. He ended up walking right past the gang.

Mean Malcolm just sprawled against the railing, whistling at Bill as he went by wearing his pretty pink frock with shell buttons.

Bill Simpson thought to himself: I'd rather have the scabs kicked off my ankle!

When he reached the main road, there was an elderly woman with curly grey hair already standing at the curb. To feel safe from the gang, he stood at her side.

"Give me your hand, little girl," she said. "I'll see us both safely across the road."

"No, really," insisted Bill. "I'm fine, honestly. I cross here everyday by myself."

The woman simply didn't listen. She just reached down and grasped his wrist, hauling him after her across the road.

On the far side, she looked down approvingly as she released him.

"That's such a pretty frock!" she said. "You mind you keep it nice and clean."

Rather than say something disagreeable, Bill ran off quickly.

The head teacher was standing at the school gates, holding his watch in the palm of his hand, watching the last few stragglers arrive.

"Get yours skates on, Stephen Irwin!" he yelled. And: "Move, Tom Warren!"

Another boy charged round the corner and cut in front of Bill.

"Late, Andrew!" the head teacher called out fiercely. "Late, late, late!"

Then it was Bill's turn to go past.

"That's right," the head teacher called out encouragingly. "Hurry along, dear. We don't want to miss assembly, do we?"

And he followed Bill up the path to school.

Assembly always took place in the main hall. After the hymn, everyone was told to sit on the floor, as usual. Desperately, Bill tried to tuck the pretty pink dress in tightly around his bare legs.

Mrs Collins leaned forward on her canvas chair.

"Stop fidgeting with you frock, dear," she told him. "You're getting nasty grubby finger prints all round the hem."

Bill glowered all through the rest of assembly. At the end, everybody stood up as usual.

"Now I need four strong volunteers to carry a table across to the nursery," announced the head teacher. "Who wants to go?"

Practically everybody in the hall raised a hand. Everyone liked a trip over the playground. In the nursery they had music and water and sloshy paints and tricycles and bright plastic building blocks. And if you kept your head down and didn't talk too much or too loudly, it might be a good few minutes before anyone realised you were really from one of the other classrooms, and shoved you back.

So the hall was a mass of waving hands.

The head teacher gazed around him.

Then he picked four boys.

On the way out of the hall, Bill Simpson heard Astrid complaining to Mrs Collins:

"It isn't fair! He always picks the boys to carry things."

"Perhaps the table's quite heavy," soothed Mrs Collins.

"None of the tables in this school are heavy," said Astrid. "And I know for a fact that I am stronger than at least two of the boys he picked."

"It's true," Bill said. "Whenever we have a tug of war, everyone wants to have Astrid on their team."

## Writing/SPaG task

### Paragraphing

A **paragraph** is a **section of writing** made up of one or more sentences grouped together and discussing one main subject.

New paragraphs are shown by leaving a line blank.

The information below is hard to follow because it has not yet been given labelled paragraphs.

- Read the information.
- Identify the main theme and write a title.
- Re-write the information using paragraphs to make it clear and easy to understand.

#### **Canines**

Canines are pointy.

Molars are large and flat and used for grinding food.

Humans have 8 incisors altogether; 4 in the upper jaw and 4 in the lower jaw.

Humans have 8 molars, two in each quarter of the mouth. They are at the back of the mouth behind the premolars.

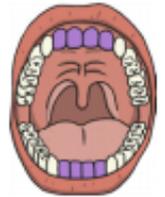
Humans have 4 canine teeth, one in each quarter of the mouth, on either side of the incisors.

Incisors are shovel-shaped.

Canines are used for tearing and ripping food.

Incisors are used for biting and cutting food.

#### **Incisors**



## Maths task

### Dividing a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number

Parent guidance – please visit the school website for guidance on division. The maths policy can be found under the curriculum tab – mathematics.

1) Use your preferred method to answer the calculations

a)  $47 \div 3 =$

e)  $49 \div 6 =$

b)  $26 \div 5 =$

f)  $47 \div 4 =$

c)  $89 \div 4 =$

g)  $74 \div 3 =$

d)  $32 \div 5 =$

h)  $81 \div 7 =$

## Fancy some Science?

- Knowing how to keep ourselves fit and healthy is an important part of life. Can you list unhealthy foods and explain why they are unhealthy? What will happen if you eat too much food? Explain.
- Research different types of teeth and their jobs – alternatively use the writing task from today to help you! Make a model or a powerpoint.