

Dear Parents and Carers,

Birch have had a brilliant Autumn Term! I am excited for our Year 5 and 6 children to continue their exciting learning journey together in Birch. This newsletter is designed to inform you of what the children will be learning about in the Spring Term.

## **Maths**

In Maths, the work we do in school is based around the three principles of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. This is taught through the Power Maths curriculum. During the Spring Term, our children will be deepening their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. They will then move on to measure, by finding area and perimeter.

We will be working extremely hard on rapidly recalling times tables and we ask that you continue to work on these at home with your child as they form an integral part of accessing the maths curriculum. Times Table Rockstars is still available to use at home with the same username and password. If you are unsure of your child's login, please contact us.

## **English**

Children will continue to learn English through the Talk for Writing process. In this Spring Term, we will be writing a tale of fear, an autobiography and a few poems. To help develop your child's descriptive writing, we encourage them to read a range of literature at home.

## **Geography**

During the first half of the Spring Term, we will be learning about British geographical issues. The children will explore the following issues and their impact on Britain: air pollution, flooding, waste and litter. They will use and analyse geographical data and assess the impact this has upon people and the local environment.

After February half term, we will be learning about South America. The children will study the Inca Empire. They will also study the Andes Mountains, Mount Aconcagua, the Amazon Rainforest and the Atacama Desert.

## **History**

Our history unit across the Spring, studies World War II. In Spring 1, children learn about the impact of the Armistice and Treaty of Versailles with a focus on the rise of Hitler. Spring 2 will focus on how the war was fought across the world between 1939-45 with time spent learning about the Holocaust.

## **Science**

In Spring 1, Birch will be building their knowledge and understanding of electricity. The children will use symbols to represent components of a circuit including batteries, wires, bulbs and switches. They will also build a variety of circuits to evaluate the impact of changing the number of batteries and voltage. They will end the unit by designing, making and evaluating an electrical device.

After February half term, Birch class will be learning more about light, how it travels and the shadows it creates. Pupils will test the hypothesis that shadows are always the same shape as the object that made them. They will therefore be working scientifically to plan how to test the hypothesis, before carrying it out.

## **Art**

In Spring 1, Birch will be learning about Victorian art and architecture. They will start by looking at the architecture of the Houses of Parliament and how this important building was influenced by both gothic and classical style. Over the course of three lessons, they will create detailed drawings of famous London buildings (the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey) which show gothic or classical influence.

In Spring 2, the children will be learning about William Morris. The children will start by looking at Morris' wallpaper designs, learning that these were stylized forms based on nature, bearing the influence of Islamic design. They will also learn how the wallpaper was produced by block printing and they will create their own Morris inspired designs printed using the reduction method

## **P.E**

Our P.E day for this term is Thursday. Please ensure that your child comes into school in the correct kit.

## **Homework**

Homework will be set on a Friday with it to be returned the following Wednesday. Homework will include spellings, 3 x reading diary comments and a maths and spelling task which will vary weekly.

Children can practise their spellings on Spelling Frame. We will also continue to use Times Table Rockstars regularly to aid fluency with our maths unit on the four operations.

If you do have any questions or concerns, or would like ideas of how to best support your child at home, then please do email us via [office@tunstead.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@tunstead.norfolk.sch.uk) or through the Google Classroom.

Thank you for your continued support - we are looking forward to an exciting term!

Kind regards,

Miss Kirby and Mrs Aldridge