

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome back our Year 5 and 6 children and begin our exciting learning journey together in Birch. This newsletter is designed to inform you of what the children will be learning about in the autumn 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. To begin with, we will start by developing your child's understanding of place value. This will include reading and writing numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, and rounding numbers. Once these mathematical concepts are secured, we will move onto the four operations. 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

For the first half of the autumn term, we will be focussing on developing three areas: handwriting, spelling and grammar. Any gaps in these will be addressed in additional afternoon interventions.

Children will continue to learn English through the Talk for Writing process. Throughout autumn, we will be writing a descriptive science fiction text, as well as a non-chronological report. To broaden your child's vocabulary, we recommend they read a range of literature at home.

Geography

During the first half term, we will be learning about spatial sense. Birch class will learn how to interpret maps, globes and digital mapping; we will also become cartographers and look at lines of longitude and latitude to locate different places on maps.

After October half term, we will be learning about mountains. Children will study the physical geography of mountains, including the process of how they are formed, where they are located and how to spot mountain regions on maps.

History

At the beginning of the year, we will be learning about the 'Early British Empire'. We will learn about global trade, the Mughal Empire and the East India Company, and finally understand the motivations of Britain building an Empire.

Our history topic after this is 'The Transatlantic Slave Trade'. The children will learn about its origins, the Atlantic passage and how slaves were treated.

Science

Birch class will delve into science and begin by learning about materials. They will revise the properties of materials and work scientifically to conduct investigations to test the suitability of different materials.

After October half term, Birch will be learning about living things and their habitats. They will be looking at the lifecycles of different types of plants and animals.

Art

In art, we will be looking at a range of styles, such as Rococo, modernism and abstract. We will also be revising the colour theory to know how to create different colours by mixing different colour combinations.

P.E

Our P.E day for this term is **Tuesday**. Please ensure that children come 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 task which will vary weekly.

Children can practise their spellings on Spelling Frame. We will also continue to use Times Table Rockstars regularly, especially during the autumn term 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 or through the Google Classroom.

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

Kind regards,

Mrs Potter and Mrs Aldridge