

Birch Class News

September 2025

Our weekly news from Birch class will be updated each Friday on Dojo. Please do message me through Dojo if you have any queries or concerns. If you need to contact us urgently please do phone the main school office on 01332 978681

What are we learning this half term?

Our topic this term is 'tiny seeds grow mighty trees.'

This term we are learning about our school, how to make friends and how to recognise emotions and how we manage them with support.

We will be building on our skills to be independent in our self care and organising ourselves.

We will also be learning about our school values of being kind, respectful and curious.

Reminders

Please make sure your child has the following things in school each day:

- named water bottle
- named coat
- spare set of clothes

Upcoming Events

9th October: Scary hair day

10th October: SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

23rd October: School photographs

24th October: Last day of term

Our PE days are on Thursday and Friday each week. Please send your child into school wearing their PE kits

Phonics

The children will start their daily phonics lessons from the second week of this term. Monday-Thursday each week the children will be learning a new sound. They will learn how to read it, say it and write it. They will also be learning how to say that sound within short, simple words and when ready, they will blend to read these sounds to start reading.

To help at home you can encourage your children to listen to sounds when you 'robot talk' simple words e.g. can you put on your h-a-t? Can you pass me the c-u-p? Please always say the letter sounds ('a' as in cat rather than ay) as the children are learning how to read through the sounds the letters make.

Your child will have a reading pack sent home from week 2. Please keep this pack safe. We have invested thousands of pounds in high quality books to support your child's reading. If the books are lost or ruined then we will need to charge for their replacement.

Please support your child in sharing their book a little and often. We would suggest at least 4 times a week for about 5 minutes each time.

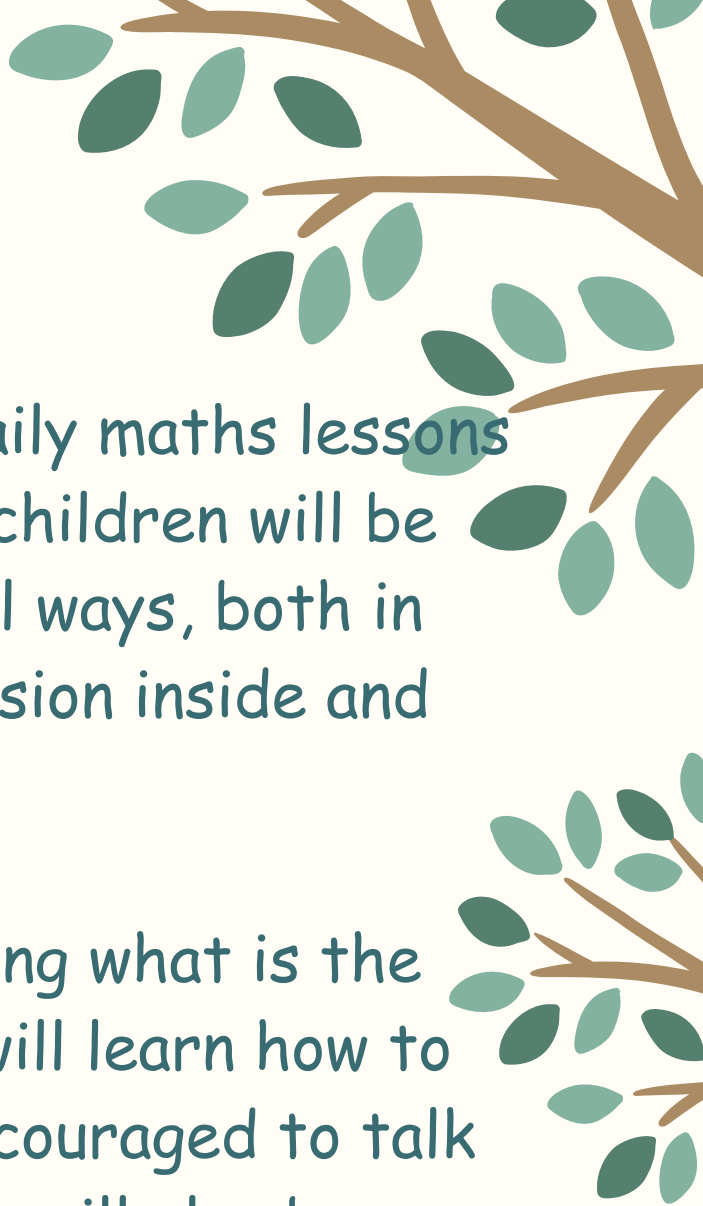
Please jot down the date, title and short comment when you support your children with their school book at home. We will change the books each FRIDAY if the books have been shared at home. You also have a login for online books through Oxford Owls. These will also be changed weekly each Friday.

Maths

We will be taking part in daily maths lessons during this half term. The children will be exploring maths in practical ways, both in our lessons and in our provision inside and outside.

The children will be exploring what is the same and different. They will learn how to compare objects and be encouraged to talk about what they notice. We will also be grouping objects in different ways e.g. how many sides something has or what colour it is.

The children will be singing number songs to help with their rote counting and awareness of number. This is something you can support your child with at home to help with early number awareness.





Understanding of the World

The children will be supported to explore our classroom and the wider school. We will use the hall for our PE lessons and assembly times. The children start to understand how they are part of our school community and what their role is within it. They will be supported to understand our school values of being kind, respectful and curious and how these values can help make us the best that we can be.

Personal, social and emotional development

We will be helping the children to talk about their feelings, identify them and learn strategies on how to deal with our emotions and those of others. We will use books like 'The Colour Monster' and social stories to help us understand and talk about how we feel at different times and how to be respectful of other people's feelings.

Physical Development

The children will take part in two weekly PE lessons on Thursdays and Fridays. Thursday lessons will be with Mr George who will be teaching the children group games and encouraging good listening skills and being able to follow instructions. On Fridays we will be developing our gross motor skills using our wheeled bikes and scooters and using play equipment to develop our muscle control.

Each day the children will have 'finger gym' activities inside and outside to build up fine motor skills. They will also be supported to use tools in different ways to help build up finger muscles. This is something you can support your child with at home. Please support them to use a knife and fork when eating and attempt to cut up their own food.

We will also be encouraging gross motor skills in our outdoor provision with plenty of arm movements using chalk, paintbrushes and ribbons.

Creative

The children have free access to a wide range of creative materials for them to make their own pieces of art both inside and outside. The children will also be taught new skills such as using scissors and stampers carefully and how to junk model using different materials.

We will be focusing on making self portraits using a wide range of materials and the children will also look at artists and how they made their own self portraits.

We will be singing lots of songs and exploring musical instruments together.