

# Birch Class Newsletter

Autumn 2

Welcome back to Autumn Term 2! We hope you had a great half term break together and are ready for our new adventures and learning over the next few weeks.

Our topic of learning this half term is 'What is happening around us?' We will be exploring the world around us through first hand experiences as well as being creative in our learning experiences. We will be finding out about the changing seasons through the natural world and we will be exploring celebrations and why they are important to people and communities.

## Upcoming Events

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November: Kindness

Day-Children in Need

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Birch

Class Performance 5pm

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Last day  
of term

## After School Activities

SH Active Sports (booked and paid for directly with them)

Tuesday: Mini trampolining

Thursday: Laser Tag

## Reminders

Please send your child's reading pack in everyday. We change the books every Friday and upload new digital books onto your Oxford Owls account (log in details are in the front of your child's reading diary.)

PE days continue to be on Thursday and Friday. Please send your child in their school PE kit on these days.

Please send your child in with a NAMED coat each day. The children spend at least half of their day outside whatever the weather! Please also spend some time to show your child how to do up their own coats to help with their independent skills.

## Phonics and Literacy

The children will continue to learn new phonemes each day and develop their key skills in segmenting and blending. They will be putting these skills in to practice as they start to write labels, match words to a picture and write purposefully when in provision. The children will have different opportunities to develop their fine motor skills through exciting activities that help to strengthen their fingers. This will help with their pencil grip and their daily handwriting activities.

The children will enjoy sharing books and songs every day. From these books we develop our learning activities across all areas. The children will have opportunities to use their phonics skills to read words and simple sentences each day.

Please continue to support your child with their reading at home, it really makes the biggest difference to your child's confidence and reading ability.

Just a reminder that we say the sounds of the letters e.g. 's' as in sad, not 'es' as. Blending is where the children can say the sounds then blend them together to say the word e.g. s-i-t = sit.

The children are also learning 'harder to read and spell words.' These are words the children just need to know on sight. If they don't know these words it really slows down their reading speed and skill. Please help your child by practising quickly reading a few of these each time you read at home for rapid recall.

Many thanks for your support.

## Maths

This term, the children will explore 2D shapes and their properties, helping them understand the basics of geometry. We will be naming shapes and talking about what they look like and finding them in our environment.

We will be finding out about the numbers 1-5. They will perfect their touch counting skills, ensuring they know that the last number they say represents the total count. We'll also be using Numicon and other concrete materials to help them subitise (recognize small quantities without counting), estimate, and count. We will learn how to make these amounts in different ways and how to write these numbers

## Understanding of the World

This term, we will explore a variety of books to help the children understand the changing seasons and celebrations throughout the year. We'll begin with the story of "One Year with Kipper," learning about the months, the seasonal changes, and what happens in nature. We will be creating a class calendar and adding events from our own lives, along with upcoming celebrations in our world and community such as Christmas, Diwali and Bonfire Night.

The children will be going on an autumn walk exploring the school grounds and collecting natural materials to use in their art. We will also be taking pictures of the changing environment and will compare these throughout the year talking about the similarities and differences.

# Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be using natural materials to create autumnal art using pictures from their environment as inspiration. We will be looking at the art of Andy Goldsworthy as inspiration to create our own painting using different techniques and combining different materials.

We will be using different celebrations as inspiration for our art opportunities. From fireworks to Christmas trees we will be exploring different techniques and using different materials in our creative area.

The children will also be taking part in their first school Christmas performance! We will be busily learning songs and how to be on a stage ready for this magical experience!

## PSED

In PSED (Personal, Social, and Emotional Development), we will be learning about the importance of looking after ourselves. This includes understanding the value of sleep and the benefits of healthy eating. Through engaging activities we will talk about handwashing and the children will learn how to make good choices that contribute to their overall well-being. Additionally, we will focus on developing their independent skills, encouraging them to take responsibility for their own self-care.

We will continue to support the children to be aware of their own emotions and how their actions can impact on others. We will talk about our feelings and behaviours and continue to learn strategies to manage ourselves in a positive way.