

Year 2 Ash and Birch Newsletter

Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome back to the new school year. We are absolutely delighted to be teaching Year 2 this year and are looking forward to the exciting learning we have coming up. Mrs. Rotheron will be the class teacher in Ash Class, with Teaching Assistant Tina and LSA Sarah supporting. Ms Naidoo will be the class teacher in Birch class with Teaching Assistant Zin and LSA Danielle supporting. Ms Naidoo and Ms Rotheron have their planning time on a Monday afternoon, when the class will be taught PE by Anna and Computing by Billy-Jo. Mr George will be teaching Ash Class on Fridays.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information.

In **English**, we will begin by reading *The Day the Crayons Quit*. We will focus on punctuation and using different types of sentences to be able to write a persuasive letter. Our second text of this half term will be *Traction Man*. We will use this as a stimulus to write character descriptions and our own narrative story. Finally, we will be exploring African poetry. As always, we will be placing a great emphasis on **reading**. Please read with your child every day for at least 15 minutes and discuss what has happened in the text to ensure that your child can develop their comprehension skills and vocabulary. All children will be able to take a library book home on a weekly basis, as our librarian has specific measures in place to ensure this is safe. We will begin sending out the levelled home reader books once again this academic year.

Our first **Maths** focus this half-term will be place value, followed by addition and subtraction. We will also be practising our problem solving and reasoning skills to make sure that the children can apply the mathematical skills we are learning to solve real-life problems.

Our **History** topic will focus on significant people from the past, specifically Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We will learn about the conditions in Crimea, the impact that Florence Nightingale had in hospitals and why Mary Seacole is an important figure. Alongside this newsletter, you have received a knowledge organiser.

This contains an overview of key knowledge for your child's history topic this half term. Please encourage your child to become familiar with the knowledge contained in the

organiser at home, as this will allow for more focus on historical skills, rather than knowledge, within lessons.

In **Science**, our topic will be Animals Including Humans. We will be looking at the life cycle of a chicken, human babies, essential human needs, how to have a healthy heart and how to make healthy food choices.

In **Music**, children will have weekly drumming lessons every Tuesday afternoon. In addition, they will have in-class music taught through Music Express. Our music topics are titled, 'Ourselves' and 'Animals'. We will explore body percussion and pitch.

Our 'big question' in **Religious Education** this term is: Why did Jesus teach The Lord's prayer as the way to pray? In this unit, we will explore what is prayer and what does the Lord's prayer mean to Christians today.

Please note **PE** will be on **Mondays**. Please ensure your child has the correct kit and comes to school dressed in their kit on Mondays. We will be focusing on gymnastics this term. **Swimming** will be on **Wednesdays** starting from the 14th September. Please ensure your child brings his/her swimming kit to school every Wednesday.

A swimming kit should include:

- clean swimming costume (1 piece costume for girls and swimming shorts for boys)
- clean towel
- swimming hat

Core homework will be distributed at the start of each half-term. It will include all of your child's spellings and their project homework. Please practise spellings at home regularly and encourage your child to participate in our topic-related project. Spellings will be tested on a Tuesday. If you would like to receive the additional optional homework please return the slip to your child's class teacher. Homework must be handed in to us on Monday, and then the optional homework will be handed out each Wednesday.

As always, thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a great and successful year together. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us.

Kind regards,

Ms. Naidoo, Mrs. Rethon, Mr George, Billy-Jo, Danielle, Sarah, Tina and Zin

The Year 2 Teaching Team.

