

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 Rothon will be the class teacher in Ash Class, with Teaching Assistant Natalie and LSA Kabita. Ms Watterson will be the class teacher in Birch class with Teaching Assistant Khairun and LSA Ellie supporting. Mrs Rothon and Ms Watterson have their planning time on a Monday afternoon, when the class will be taught PE by Anna and Computing by Billy-Jo. Ms Bell will be teaching in Birch Class on Mondays and Thursdays and in 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.

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. We will be sending out levelled home reader books once again this academic year and have colour coded the reading records so that you are aware of which day your child will have their book changed:

BLUE: Monday

PURPLE: Tuesday

GREEN: Wednesday

YELLOW: Thursday

RED: Friday

Children will also be given the opportunity to choose a book from the school library once a week. **Ash Class** library slot is on **Wednesdays**. **Birch Class** library slot will be on **Thursdays**.

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.

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 morning. 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.

In **Art** our focus will be drawing and mark making this half term. We will be exploring how artists are inspired by their environment and will be using a range of resources to draw.

In **PSHE** our focus is 'Being Me in My World'. We will be discussing our hopes for the year and exploring our rights and responsibilities as well as creating our own class charter for the academic year.

In **Computing** we will be exploring 'Information Technology Around Us'. We will be exploring how to use the internet safely as well as building practical skills such as how to use a track pad and how to save a file.

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.

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 contact us.

Mrs Rothon, Ms Watterson, Ms Bell, Natalie, Kabita, Khairun and Ellie

The Year 2 Team.

