

Year 2 Ash and Birch Newsletter – Autumn Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers:

First of all, we would like to thank you for all your support in the first half-term. The children have settled in well and we're grateful for your efforts in getting your child to school promptly and ready to learn. The following is an overview of what your child will learn this half-term.

In **English**, we will begin by exploring John Agard's poems with a key focus on his poem 'The Rainmaker Danced' where we will be learning about poetic features and writing our own poems. We will then move on to the text 'The Hunter' by Paul Geraughty. We will make predictions, write letters and retell the stories. Another text we will explore is 'Wangari's Trees of Peace'. All these texts are set in Kenya, and we will be able to make links and comparisons between them as well as learning more about our topic. We will finish the half term by reading books about caring for the environment such as 'Dear Greenpeace,' and using these texts and our learning in Science to create an information book on looking after our world.

Please continue to **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 show understanding and develop their vocabulary. Your child has been given a reading book and library book to take home and will have their books updated on Bug Club. Please note that **Birch Class** library books are changed on **Mondays** and **Ash Class** library books are changed on **Wednesdays**.

Our first **Maths** focus this half-term will be addition and subtraction. We will be adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers across 10 before moving on to shape. We will explore 2D and 3D shapes' properties as well as sort and create patterns using shapes. As always, we will 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. In mental maths we will continue to focus on number bonds to 10 and 20 and on the 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

Our **Geography** topic will focus on Kenya. We will learn how to locate a country on a world map and name the continents and oceans. We will be exploring the climate and weather of Kenya, as well as the animals that live there. We will learn about the



different compass points, compare the different landscapes within Kenya, and identify similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK.

In **Science**, our topic will be The Environment. We will explore climate change, think about how to reduce waste and save energy and find out about endangered animals and their habitats.

In **Music**, the children will continue their drumming lessons on a Tuesday. Our in-class learning will focus on two units, 'Weather' and 'Pattern', which will explore making sounds and creating rhythms.

Our 'big question' in **Religious Education** this term is: '*How does the symbol of Light help us to understand the meaning of Christmas to Christians*'. In this unit, we will explore what Jesus means he says "I am the light of the world", the children will also consider who is their own guiding light and understand the meaning of the Christingle.

In **PSHE** our Topic is *Celebrating Differences* where we will be discussing gender stereotypes and the importance of equality and diversity. We will explore how we are the same and how we are different to our peers as well as discussing bullying and what we can do to keep ourselves safe.

In **Design and Technology** we will be designing puppets. We will be investigating different types of puppets and their features. We will also be developing our joining and sewing skills to create a finger and glove puppet before evaluating our designs.

Please note P.E. is on **Mondays** and swimming is on **Thursdays**. Please ensure your child has the correct kit on these days.

In **Computing**, we will be learning about Online Safety and how to be kind online. We will also be developing our programming skills on digital photography.

Homework will be distributed with new spellings to learn each week. Spellings are tested on **Tuesdays**. Please read the homework carefully to find details of this half-term's project about Kenya. The extra optional Maths and English homework is posted on Wednesday each week on Teams.

Please do come and speak to us if you have any queries.

Best Wishes,

Year 2 Team.

