

## Note from Staff Team

We've had another fun-filled half term in Birch class with so many shining moments. The children had a fantastic time during book week and were introduced to many authors as well as sharing their favourite stories and characters. We have also focused and had lots of fun completing science investigations, artwork and information booklets for our classroom displays, which we hope you will come and see on our open classroom afternoon in the new term. The Birch Team wish you all a wonderful Easter (and Eid) and are looking forward to another great half term this summer.

**Mrs Pullin** (Class Teacher), **Mrs Bell** (Learning Support) and **Mrs Coward** (1:1 Learning Support)

## Important Information

**Date for the diary** – Birch and Hazel class 'Open Classroom' is **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 – 3.00pm** where we will share some of our learning and complete some activities.

We look forward to welcoming anyone who is available to join us.

Day	Timings of day	Timetable Information
Monday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin + Mrs Bell (all day) Mrs Coward (am) <i>Whole Class Read to go home</i>
Tuesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin + Mrs Bell (all day) Mrs Coward (am)
Wednesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin (am) Mrs Bell (all day) Mrs Hamilton (pm) <b>PE</b> - children come to school in their PE kit for the day. <i>Prepare for all types of weather.</i>
Thursday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin + Mrs Bell (all day) Mrs Coward (am)
Friday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin (all day) Mrs Bell (am) Mrs Coward (pm) <b>Learning Log</b> review + book change <b>PE</b> - children come to school in their PE kit for the day. <i>Prepare for all types of weather.</i>

## Expectations

### **Reading**

In KS2, unless there is a specific need, children have completed Phonics so will no longer take home a Phonics Bug book to read. Instead, the focus moves to *Whole Class Read* and they will bring a Year 3-4 appropriate reading text home in a blue wallet. They spend a week in class unpicking ambitious vocabulary and answering different types of questions about this text. It may be challenging initially, but they build their confidence across the week the more times they read the text. Please read this text at home with them at least *4 times in the week* and talk about the words they have highlighted in it. Their blue wallet will need to be returned to school each day as this is the text that is used in school as well as at home.

Reading for Pleasure is something we value at our school and it is a joy to see the engagement our children have in these sessions. To support this, your child will bring home a book they have chosen either from the school library or our class bookshelves. This may be seen as an 'easier' book for them or may be one which is more challenging that they need help reading. As long as they're enjoying the book, we don't mind! We support their independence in changing this book whenever they need to. If you have any concerns that your child doesn't seem to enjoy reading, please speak to one of the Birch team. There is a style of book or author for everyone so we will support them in finding theirs!

## Spellings

Spelling - There is an expectation for children to be practicing the spellings from their learning logs at home. This half term, we ask you to work on the following 20 spellings ready for a half termly assessment on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June. The Year 4 children will have started to learn these spellings last year so can challenge themselves to spell the words within sentences if they are already confident with them.

possible	potatoes	pressure	probably	promise
purpose	quarter	question	recent	regular
reign	remember	sentence	separate	special
straight	strange	strength	suppose	surprise

They can of course practice as many spellings as they want in addition to this from their learning log.

If your child has spellings on a SEN support plan, they need to practice these but as part of our ambitious curriculum, we would also like them to access the class spellings too.

## Maths

**Fluency Facts** – Fact Fluency within Maths is of the utmost importance at Harthill Primary School therefore, we have streamlined our number facts so that children are learning no more than 4 facts for 3 weeks. Supporting your child at home at the correct time would be most beneficial.

Y3	Summer			
Weeks	28-30	31-33	34-37	38-39
Facts	4 x 8 5 x 8 6 x 8	7 x 8 8 x 8 9 x 8	10 x 8 11 x 8 12 x 8	Re-visit gaps
Plus corresponding division facts				

Y4	Summer			
Weeks	28-30	31-33	34-37	38-39
Facts	All 11s and re-visit any gaps in prep for MTC	Revise whole-class, group and individual gaps and assess individuals		
Plus corresponding division facts				

## Home Learning

Using their learning logs, all children should be:

- Practicing reading at least **4 times a week** using their whole class reading extracts.
- Reading their library book, sharing stories and facts at home and developing their love of books with your help.
- Practicing spelling their statutory spellings and zero tolerance words. We do not have spelling tests but we do teach spelling and focus on children applying these in their writing, which is how we assess their spelling. Reinforcement of their year group words will help your child make progress with this.
- Access Times Table Rockstars **3 times a week** and practice their tables at home.

**PE** – This half term, our PE sessions are on a **Wednesday** and a **Friday**. Please note that PE uniform is a plain white t-shirt, black or navy shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, black or navy sweatshirt/fleece and trainers. Coloured clothing must not be worn. Spare PE uniform is available in school if children come in incorrect clothing. Please tie long hair up and remove any earrings or you can provide sterile tape to protect them.

The children will be completing more outdoor sport skills this year so please ensure they are prepared for all types of weather.

**Communication** – Feel free to catch me at any point on the playground in the morning if there is anything you'd like to chat about. However, I appreciate this is a busy time and some discussions may need to be private. If you'd rather, call or email the office and I will give you a ring back at a suitable time. Don't ever feel this is a problem – I am very happy to do this!

## Ways to Help your Child

Please encourage your child to read as much as possible. It has been great to hear the children read so far and it is clear how much of a love they have for reading. We are continuing with our 'Reading for Pleasure' and we strongly

believe that there is a book/genre for every child. If your child is struggling to find reading material to engage them, let me know and we will help.

Joining the local library is a huge benefit for all children as it opens their possibilities when choosing books. I would highly recommend signing up if you haven't already as they also hold lots of fun activities throughout the year for children to engage with.

If you would like to practise spellings with your child, please refer to the Year 1 and 2 and the Year 3 and 4 words in the learning log. If they find some of the spellings easy, try asking them to put them into sentences as well. We will be continuing to develop the cursive script with a focus on the size of the letters being appropriate so please use the guide in the learning log to support this.

This year's focus is 'Writing for Pleasure' and each term a writing competition will be launched. The children can write fiction or non-fiction in any genre as long as it includes the competition topic. Keep a look out for the next competition launch.

#### What we will be learning this term

<b>English Our class text</b> The Girl Who Stole an Elephant Nizrana Farook  <b>Additional texts:</b> The Angel of Nitshill Road - Anne Fine The 100 mile an hour dog - Jeremy Strong	<b>Maths Concepts covered</b> Year 3 and Year 4 will all study Time, Shape and Statistics for the remainder of the Summer term.  <b>Time tables to practise-</b> The Year 3 children are focussing on the 8 times table this half term and the Year 4 children are consolidating all their times tables. As a reminder, the Year 3 children should be confident with 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 6s and Year 4 children should be confident with all the times tables to 12x12. Please keep practising these at home to support their fluency.
<b>Other Curricular areas:</b> Last half term our History focused on power within the Ancient Greeks and this half term we are comparing this to power within the Roman Empire. In Geography we are continuing our learning about landmarks by widening this to European landmarks. In Science we are moving on to plants and focusing on the functions of the parts of flowering plants as well as seed dispersal. In PSHE we will be learning about 'Changing Me' but please see the information below about the PSHE for the following half term as there are aspects within the Year 4 content that parents can withdraw their child from. These PSHE sessions will be split and the Year 3s and Year 4s will be taught the appropriate content separately.	

#### PSHE (Summer 2) –

As part of our PSHE lessons during the summer term, the children will be working through the 'Changing Me' unit.

Year 3: The children will learn how babies grow and how boys' and girls' bodies change as they grow older.

Year 4: The children will find out about internal and external reproductive body parts, body changes in girls and menstruation. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from lesson 2 'Having a baby,' if they wish.

A letter explaining how to do this was sent home at the start of the summer term.

#### Useful Websites

Websites	Resources
<a href="https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button">https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button</a>	This is a great game for developing quick recall skills in Maths
<a href="https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0">https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0</a>	As previously, you can find additional books here. If you have any trouble logging on, please let me know.
<a href="https://ttrockstars.com/">https://ttrockstars.com/</a>	Your child will have their login in their learning log.
<a href="https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/">https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/</a>	Free to register with additional books you can enjoy with your child