

Note from the Staff Team

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and it is lovely to see the children return to school.

Birch class are settling well into the new school year, building new friendships along with the old, and getting to know their new classroom and classroom adults. With another exciting school year ahead, we are looking forward to getting to know your child and yourselves more throughout the year. Please read the further information in this newsletter and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask!

Mrs Pullin (Class Teacher), Miss Smales and Miss Dodds (Learning Support Assistants)

Important Information

Day	Timings of day	Timetable Information
Monday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin, Miss Smales (all day) Miss Dodds (a.m.)
Tuesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin, Miss Smales (all day) Miss Dodds (a.m.)
Wednesday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin, Miss Dodds (am), Miss Smales (all day) Miss Eddershaw, (pm) PE - 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, Miss Smales (all day) Miss Dodds (a.m.)
Friday	8.45am - 3:15pm	Mrs Pullin, Miss Smales (all day) Miss Dodds (a.m.) PE - 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 folder. 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 underlined in it. Their blue folder 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 6th November. 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.

accident	arrive	appear	breathe	calendar
actual	accidentally	believe	build	caught
address	actually	bicycle	busy	centre
answer	although	breath	business	century

They can of course practice as many spellings as they want in addition to this from the school website.

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 3 facts for 3 weeks. Supporting your child at home at the correct time would be most beneficial.

Y3	Autumn				
Weeks	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15
Facts	1 x 6 2 x 6 3 x 6	4 x 6 5 x 6 6 x 6	7 x 6 8 x 6 9 x 6	10 x 6 11 x 6 12 x 6	1 x 4 2 x 4 3 x 4
	Plus corresponding division facts				

Y4	Autumn				
Weeks	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15
Facts	1 x 7 2 x 7 3 x 7 4 x 7	5 x 7 6 x 7 7 x 7 8 x 7	9 x 7 10 x 7 11 x 7 12 x 7	1 x 9 2 x 9 3 x 9 4 x 9	5 x 9 6 x 9 7 x 9 8 x 9
	Plus corresponding division facts				

Home Learning

All children should be:

- Practicing reading at least 4 times a week using their whole class reading texts.
- 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 have spelling tests and teach spelling with a 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 Tables Rockstars 3 times a week and practice their tables at home.

PE – This half term, our PE sessions are on a **Wednesday and 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. 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.

Again 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

English Our class text The Truth fairy – Goes to School (Matt Haigh) Toto the Ninja Cat – (Dermont O’Leary) Additional texts: Rabbit and Bear Series (Julian Gough + Jim Field) The Big Book of the UK (Imogen Russell Williams)	Maths Concepts covered We will use this half term to develop the children’s understanding of place value and then begin the addition and subtraction unit. Time tables to practise- The Year 3 children are focussing on the 6 times table this half term and the Year 4 children are learning the 7s. As a reminder. The Year 3 children should be confident with 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s and Year 4 children should be confident with 4s, 6s and 8s in addition to these. Please keep practising these at home to support their fluency.
Other Curricular areas: This half term our Science unit is Rocks and Soils. We will be learning about what are rocks and soils? Our focus scientists this half term are Florence Bascom (Geologist) and Anjana Khatwa (Geologist). In History, we will be studying The Gun Powder Plot, this year with a focus on the reasons behind conflict with those in power. Netball will be our PE unit and we will be introducing sportsmanship and leadership skills within Sports Education to our Year 3s and further developing this with the Year 4s with a focus on large ball skills. Our focus artists in art is LS Lowry. We will be learning skills in drawing with line control adding detail and patterns. Our My Happy Mind sessions will continue. The first unit is called ‘Meet Your Brain’ where we return to Team HAP and continue to develop our knowledge of how to support our mental health. Team HAP helps children learn all about 3 key parts of their brain: the hippocampus, the amygdala and the pre-frontal cortex.	

Useful Websites

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