

# Birch Class 2017-18

## Notes for parents

September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below some school and class information which we hope you will find useful.

### School Priorities

As a school, we set ourselves ambitious targets in order to continuously improve. Our school development priorities for this academic year are:

- Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, particularly the challenge for higher attaining pupils
- Accelerate progress and improve outcomes for pupils, particularly in maths
- Develop effective and sustainable leadership and management through rigorous monitoring
- Achieve good personal development, behaviour and welfare, particularly through support for our most vulnerable and challenging pupils
- Create an environment ready for outstanding learning through continued development of outdoor and IT provision

### Behaviour

- Our School Core Values will be confirmed by school governors at their meeting on Monday but are likely to include some of the following: *Honesty, Respect or Trust and Happiness* and children will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner fitting to these values.
- We are no longer using a system of red or yellow cards. From this term, our rewards and sanctions are:

#### **Rewards:**

Smile  
Verbal praise ('well done')  
Thumbs-up  
Applause  
Stickers  
Written comments on work  
Team points  
'Star of the Day'

#### **Sanctions:**

Verbal warning  
'Time Out'  
Class Teacher/Mrs Sammon to contact parents/carers

Please refer to our School Behaviour Policy for more information.

## Class Matters

### Staffing

The Birch class teacher, this year, is Ms Parsons. Mrs Bremner is the class teaching assistant and will be in Birch every morning. Individual children also receive support from 1:1 teaching assistants during the morning - Mrs Keating and Mrs Bradley - and, from 1.30pm in the afternoons, Mrs Bremner. (Mrs Lukins will be teaching the class on Thursday mornings when Ms Parsons has her teachers' release time.)

### Curriculum

This term's topic is 'Invaders!' (Saxons and Vikings) and will run until Christmas. A curriculum map outlining key subject areas is attached.

### Homework

- Homework will be set on Fridays and will be in two parts: project-based homework (due in within two weeks) and a computer-based task or activity, the following week. Homework books must be brought into school by the deadline but work may be e-mailed to: [meparsons@bridlewood.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:meparsons@bridlewood.swindon.sch.uk)
- Spellings will be tested weekly, on Thursday mornings. Spelling lists will be given out in advance on a termly basis. The spellings are divided into bronze, silver and gold lists. The children will be advised which they should be learning as a minimum, however, we encourage them to challenge themselves to learn as many as they can.
- Reading record books have been given to all children, this year. We encourage children to read at home every day, whether from their school library book or others from home. Please make a note in their record diary when you have heard your child read, when they read independently or finish a book. When a child has completed twenty 'reads' in their reading diary, they can bring it to Mrs Sammon or Mrs McLaughlin to receive a special stamp in their book and they will receive a certificate in Celebration Assembly.

### PE lessons

PE days are usually Tuesday and Wednesday but please ensure that children have their PE kit in school every day in case the timetable changes. All children participate in these activities and so it is important that they always have their named PE kit in school hanging on their peg. A drawstring bag is preferable for space in the cloakroom. Please note : School PE kit consists of a white t-shirt,

black shorts and trainers or black daps. A Bridlewood hooded top or tracksuit bottoms may also be worn for outdoor PE during colder weather. During PE lessons, earrings must be removed or taped up and long hair tied back.

### Equipment

- As cloakroom space is limited, children should avoid bringing large bags into school.
- Children must have a water bottle in school, preferably with a sports cap, and it should only contain water. Bottles are placed in the tray at the back of the classroom each morning and should be taken home to wash every evening. To save confusion, bottles need to be clearly labelled, as do all clothes and bags.
- Children should not bring pencil cases into school.

### Key Diary Dates

Fitness Day (PE Kit)	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Individual School Photos	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
End of term (1)	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
INSET Day	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Class museum visit	November 2017 (final date tbc)
Parent Consultations	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 (5.00-7.30pm) 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 (3.30-5.30pm)
Music assembly	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Christmas Lunch	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
End of term	15 <sup>th</sup> December (1:30pm)
Class assembly	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

If there is anything that you would like to discuss, please make an appointment - either in person or by letter/email - to arrange a meeting.

Regards,  
Ms S. Parsons