

Birch Class

Notes for parents

(September 2019)

School Priorities

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

- To improve outcomes in reading and phonics
- To continue to narrow the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers through whole-school metacognition teaching
- To develop whole-school leadership of foundation subject areas
- To develop Early Years provision, including the opening of the new nursery

Behaviour

- Our School Core Values are: *Honesty, Respect and Responsibility*; children will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner fitting to these values.
- 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
Reflection
Class Teacher/Mrs Sammon to
contact parents/carers

Please refer to our school Behaviour Policy for more information.

Class Matters

Staffing

As class teacher, I will be in class Monday - Friday. On Thursday afternoons, the class teacher will be Mrs Smedley; Mrs Bentley, as teaching assistant, is also based in the class in the mornings.

Curriculum

This term's topic is 'Invaders!' (Saxons and Vikings) and will run until Christmas. A *curriculum map* outlining key subject areas can be found on the class page of the website.

Music

This year, a specialist music teacher is working with the class. The children will be learning to play the clarinet and each has an instrument to take home for practice. Music lessons are on **Tuesday** afternoons so clarinets will need to be brought into school each week on that day.

Homework

- Weekly homework is set on Thursdays and is due on or before the following **Tuesday**. Homework books must be brought into school on or before Tuesday but online/typed work may also be e-mailed, if unable to be printed at home.
- Spellings will be tested weekly on **Friday** mornings. Termly spelling lists are available on the class page of the school. Weekly reminder lists will also be included on homework sheets.
- New **reading record books** have been given out. Children are expected to read regularly and to record what they have read (and comment on it). Children are given time to read in class, each day. We encourage children to read at home every day, whether from their school library book or another from home. 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.

PE lessons

- PE days are usually **Mondays** and **Thursdays** but please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day in case of timetable changes. A drawstring bag is preferable for space in the cloakroom.
- It is important that children's PE kit is named. *Please note:* School PE kit consists of a white t-shirt, black shorts and trainers or black daps. During colder weather, a Bridlewood hooded top or tracksuit bottoms may also be worn for outdoor PE. (Please remember to include socks if your child wears tights to school.)
- During PE lessons, earrings must be removed or taped up and long hair tied back.

Equipment

- As cloakroom space is very 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 should be clearly labelled.
- Children should not bring pencil cases or other personal items into school.

Assessment

The children will sit standardised tests in reading comprehension ('PiRA'), spelling/grammar ('SpAG') and maths (PUMA) three times a year, as they did in year 3. Olympic maths and timed arithmetic tests will also be done fortnightly.

Times Tables Assessment

In June, this year, all year four children will sit an online times tables test - the '**multiplication tables check**' (MTC). The national curriculum specifies that pupils are expected to be able to recall all multiplication tables up to and including 12×12 by the end of year 4. As the test only allows 6 seconds for each on-screen question to be read, answers recalled and typed in, so fast recall of times tables facts will be a focus this year.

Key Diary Dates

Class trip to <i>Oxenwood</i>	5 th November new date
Individual School Photos	22 nd November
INSET Day	23 rd October
Parent Consultations	5 th & 6 th November

If there is anything that you would like to discuss, please get in touch to make an appointment - either in person or by letter/email. Direct email: mspansons@bridlewood.swindon.sch.uk

Ms S. Parsons