



Welcome to Birch!

Important information



My name is Mr. McMeiken and I will be teaching in Year 4 (Birch Class) this year.

My name is Miss Burnett and I will be Supporting in Year 4 this year.





This term, Our PE day will be a Tuesday. Please ensure that children arrive at school wearing a suitable PE kit which consists of dark (navy blue, grey or black) shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, a white t-shirt (these were sent home at the beginning of the year), and a pair of suitable trainers or sand shoes. During the colder months, children can wear their school jumper, too!

At DLPS we are trying to be eco-friendly! In an attempt to limit paper usage, Y4 will have paperless homework! This will be set on a Friday afternoon and will consist of:

- A set of spellings to practise on Spelling Shed – these will be tested the following Friday.
- Times tables to practise on TTRS – these will be tested the following Friday.

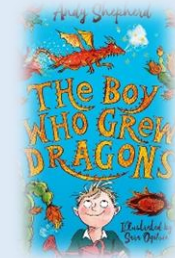
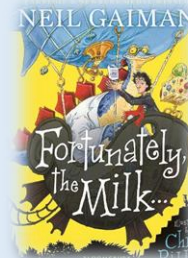
Homework is expected to be completed by the following Friday. If children cannot access Spelling Shed or TTRS, please don't hesitate to contact the school for alternative arrangements to be made.

In addition to the weekly homework above, children are expected to read at home daily. Children will bring home a reading book and reading record every day and must read with an adult a minimum of three times per week. House points are up for grabs for every time children read at home!

This term, we will be focusing on developing our literal retrieval skills within our guided reading as well as giving special attention to developing our vocabulary through reading a wide variety of text types and genres.

This half term, Birch Class are reading 'Fortunately, the milk...' by Neil Gaiman as our class novel.

After that, we will read 'The boy who grew dragons' by Andy Shepherd



Writing



This half term, we will focus our writing around the Pie Corbett text "Keep off the Tracks". We will begin by recapping our Y3 skills before producing some descriptive writing using noun phrases and the 'show, not tell' technique. Following this, we will invent our own version of the warning tale, producing our own characters and setting. To end the half term, we will look at diary entries as a non-fiction text, retelling the story as a diary entry from the point of view of one of the characters.

After half term, we will use the text 'staying out' to help us write fear stories. We will develop our understanding of expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and dialogue. After that, we will write non-chronological reports about British wildlife, focusing on structure and layout as well as formal style of writing.



Maths

This term, we will focus on developing our understanding of place value and addition and subtraction.

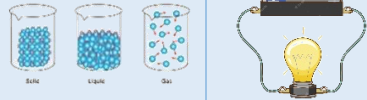
Within place value, we will be looking at numbers up to 10,000. We will develop our skills in reading these numbers, building them using practical tools, partitioning them in different ways, comparing and ordering them, placing them on number lines, rounding them to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000, and we will learn about Roman numerals up to 1000.

Within addition and subtraction, we will develop our understanding of mental and written methods of calculation and use our knowledge to help us to solve problems.

After half term, we will look at area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares. We will also look at recalling multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times table.



Science



In Science this half term, we will be learning about what our world is made up of. We will use cubes to help us model what particles are like in different materials (solids, liquids and gases). We will also look at the processes involved in changing these states of matter such as melting, evaporating, condensing and freezing.

After half term, we will develop our understanding of electricity, we will learn about how circuits are constructed and make predictions about whether a circuit will work or not. We will learn about how to stay safe around electricity as well as learning about conductors and insulators and which materials are best to use for switches. Finally, we will investigate different ways to make our bulbs brighter within our circuits.

History

This term, Year 4 will be learning about Ancient Rome. We will think about where and when Ancient Rome existed. How it was founded, what daily life was like in Ancient Rome, What the Ancient Romans believes (Gods and Goddesses), about how they made decisions using the senate and finally how they grew to become an empire.



Geography



In geography this term, we will learn about what Italy is like today. We will learn about the location of Italy and its surrounding countries and seas as well as some aspects of Italy's human and physical geography. We will learn about the culture and famous landmarks that can be found within Italy. This will link to our learning about Ancient Rome.

Art

This term, we will learn about how we can tell stories through art.

We will look at the work of authors and illustrators Shaun Tan and Laura Carlin before thinking about how we can use a range of media to tell stories using images.



Design and Technology



In DT this term, we will be learning about pencil cases.

We will look at a range of different existing products and analyse them for the materials used and how they open. We will develop our skills in sewing before designing and making our own pencil cases using our new sewing techniques. We will then use our new skills to create a special item for the Christmas Fayre!

RE

This term, we will learn about the bible and why it is important to Christians. We will think about different stories from the bible and how Christians follow these teachings to support them in living a good life.



PE



This half term, we will focus on football we will develop our understanding of invasion games through learning to play football. We will develop our throwing and catching skills as well as our tactical understanding and teamwork.

After half term, we will focus on athletics for our PE lessons, we will develop our stamina for running longer distances as well as jumping and throwing techniques.

PHSE

In PHSE this term, we will think about 'being me' and 'celebrating differences'. We will think about what makes us special and unique and how this is different for everybody.



Computing



This term in computing, we will learn about coding. We will learn about what coding is and how we can create codes which give computers instructions so that they know what to do.

Music

This half term, we will think about using our body and tuned percussion instruments to create music. We will think about the theme of the rainforest and use this as a stimulus to create sounds.

After half term, we will think about rock and roll music. We will listen to a range of music, think about the instruments used to create this style and structure.



MFL



In French, we will be looking at all the different names for different fruits in French.