



Birch Newsletter Summer Term 2026

Welcome back! We hope you are all well-rested after the Easter break. It has been lovely to see the children settled back into school routines. They have come back refreshed and ready to learn!

Our topic for this term is:

'Magnificent Monarchs'

In our Magnificent Monarchs topic, children will learn about the English and British monarchy from AD 871 to the present day. Using timelines, information about royal palaces, portraits and other historical sources, they will build up an understanding of the monarchs and then research six of the most significant sovereigns. In Art, the children will learn about portraiture. They will analyse the portraits of Tudor monarchs, compare Tudor portraits and selfies today and use photo-editing software to create royal portraits. Alongside the monarchy topic, children will complete a DT unit where they will learn about fabric home products and the significant British brand Cath Kidston. They will learn about sewing patterns and using a running stitch and embellishments before making their very own bag tag.

Phonics

During this half term, the Year 1 children will be reviewing Phase 5 in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check. They will also be using 'Alien Words' (nonsense words). The children will use their phonic knowledge to sound out the words and then blend the sounds together to read.

Year 2 children will be focusing on the Year 2 spelling patterns and taking part in a daily spelling group. They will recap and apply spelling rules that have already been taught in previous phonics lessons.

English

This half term, we will focus on a range of different fiction and non-fiction text types. We are starting the term off by writing an autobiography. This term, we are supporting the children to write longer pieces, whilst still remembering to use the correct punctuation. We will be focusing on joining sentences using conjunctions 'and', 'but' and so.

Maths

To begin the term, there will be a focus on fractions. The children will learn to recognise a half, quarter and third. The children in Year 2 will learn how to find fractions of amounts and compare equivalent fractions. They will then complete a short position and direction unit, exploring position, direction and movement. Following on from this, we will begin our Time unit. The children in Year 1 will learn to tell the time to the hour and half past, and they will compare time. Year 2 will learn to tell the time to the nearest five minutes, once they have grasped o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. To end the term, the children will complete their final measurement unit. They will learn to measure and compare mass (g and kg), volume and capacity (ml and l).

Science

Our Science topics for this term include Plants and Animals. We are excited to plant some of our very own plants and observe how they grow over time. We will be continuing our work on animals by learning about

different food chains and identifying producers and consumers. We will also explore our local area to identify different plants that grow in our environment with a focus on identifying deciduous and evergreen trees.

Homework

Please ensure your child is practising spellings and times tables at home. Spellings are on Edshed but also sent home as a paper copy each week. Practising these spellings will help to enhance their writing and learning progression.

Phonics homework is also sent home weekly on a Friday. Please ensure this is returned to school by Wednesday.

Reading and Reading Records

Reading books are sent home every day and reading at home is encouraged as much as possible. Your child takes part in weekly Guided Reading sessions where we focus on our books related to our phonics teaching. We will regularly monitor your child's reading in school and change their book band when we think they are ready to move to the next level.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

All Year 1 children will complete the Statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening Test at some point during Week Beginning 8th June. During the phonics screening, children will work 1:1 with their teacher to read a range of real and 'nonsense' words. These words are designed to test children's phonic knowledge. Again, the children will not be aware that they are taking a test and will have had lots of experience of these kinds of exercises leading up to the screening test. We know they will be amazing!

PE and Forest School

In Summer 1 (before May half term), Birch will have forest school on Tuesday and their PE lesson on a Thursday afternoon with DF Coaching.

In Summer 2 (after May half term), Birch does not have forest school and Birch's PE lesson will switch to a Tuesday.

Children can come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE day and remember jewellery is not permitted as part of our School Uniform Policy: <https://kirklevington.org.uk/parents/uniform/>

Whole-School Reminders:

Only permitted parents/carers are allowed to use the school staff car park, with prior agreement of Mrs Peacock. This rule applies to Breakfast Club drop-off too. With the limited space, staff are finding it increasingly difficult to park their cars on a morning and, therefore, parents/carers using Breakfast Club should park responsibly on Forest Lane and walk their child/children to the Breakfast Club entrance safely on the footpath. Thank you to all those parents/carers who adhere to this school rule already.

Children should walk with their scooters or bikes around the school site (once inside the green gates and fencing) to ensure the safety of the whole school community. Thank you!

We are looking forward to another busy and exciting term in Birch class!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs McGregor & Miss Cameron

