

Bottisham Community Primary School



Headteacher: Rachael Johnston

Friday 6th January 2023



Birch Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! A big thank you for all the generous gifts I received before the holidays - they were very much appreciated. We have lots to look forward to this term including our 3/4 production: 'Super Stan!' We will start organising this next week so make sure to ask your child all about it!

Curriculum:

This term, our focus is on Geography and we will be finding out about Rivers and Mountains. In English, we are looking at Science Fiction story writing and in Maths, we will be moving on from multiplication and division to looking at fractions so keep practising those times tables! There will be more information on its way as we progress into the term.

Home School Journals:

The children will be receiving a new copy soon of the Home-School Journal (HSJ) for the Spring term. This will contain information about term dates and your child's class timetable, as well as including a range of fun activities for your child to complete. The HSJ is a useful tool for communication and we encourage you to use it as way to ask questions and share general information concerning your child. We would also like parents and children to use it to record regular reading, which is part of their homework.

The children must have their HSJ in school every day. They will be checked by your child's class teacher once a week and signed off. If there is a message that you would like a quicker response to, then please ask your child to hand their journal to their class teacher first thing in the morning. Alternatively, you can email us or book an appointment to speak with you if there are more urgent matters that you wish to discuss.

Homework:

As in the previous term, homework will be sent out on Fridays and expected in on the following Wednesday. Please get into good routines with homework and encourage your child to hand it in on or before Wednesday.



Times Tables: There will be a times table set for the children to practise using TT Rockstars or an alternative interactive game online. They will be

introduced to the task on Friday, as part of their homework they will have to practise regularly through the week (little and often is best).

English activity: a grammar activity or response to a book will be set each week. This will either link to the book being studied in class or may consolidate aspects of grammar taught each week.

Spelling: a blue and green list of words will be set each week for children to learn. The children know what group they are in. They will use strategies to learn the spelling of these words in school but need to practice them at home too.

Reading: we ask children to read daily for 15 minutes and record their reading in their HSJ. As they get more independent, they can record their reading for themselves. House points will be awarded for regular recording. Many children choose to read their own book from home or from our school library, which is fine. However, we are still encouraging children to pick an AR book (following the Accelerator Reader levels), so that they can progress when taking an AR quiz as often as possible. The children know what level AR book they should be on and it is their responsibility to change their books. You can look up any books they are reading at home via this website: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>



Please note, the PE days for Birch are Mondays and Thursdays.

Please ensure that your child has a **named PE kit**, which should consist of a plain, white T-shirt, and navy or black shorts and trainers. They can also bring **plain jogging trousers** and **sweatshirt or hooded top**, as it is colder outside. This should be kept in a **named, drawstring bag please**. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons, we require a note of explanation or inform your child's class teacher at drop-off time.

Absences:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office on 01223 811235 first thing on the morning of absence. Should your child miss more than one day due to illness, parents must phone the school office every day.

Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container. Inhalers must be labelled and kept with individual children in the classrooms at all times (in the classroom's First Aid box). Thank you to those families who have already updated medication.



Google Classroom

Other things to remember:

Google Classroom has quickly become our hub for announcements of things the children should remember and work to be celebrated. Notifications can be turned on for alerts of new stream posts. Please check in on the class streams each week to enjoy any photographs or read news.

Year 4 trip to Burwell House

We have yet to receive all replies for attendance to Burwell House so I would kindly request this is completed as soon as possible so that we can start finalising preparations. There will be more information coming including an after school parent meeting about the itinerary so if you have any questions, please come along!

The Year 3 children will be taught at school as normal and will undertake similar fun, hands-on learning activities whilst the Year 4s are away.

Please continue to support your child with remembering to bring in their healthy snacks, water bottles, Home School Journals and bags into school each day. Please ensure your child does not wear earrings on PE days and for their convenience, no tights either, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Childs

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