



Birch Class News

Welcome back to the Summer Term . We can hardly believe that we are at the start of our final term in Year One. The children have made so much progress and are confident and enthusiastic learners. It was lovely to share this with you at Parents' /Carers Evening before the holidays and we would like to thank you for all of your positive comments and ongoing support.

As well as a new Geography based topic where we will be exploring Newcastle and the North East, we are looking forward to learning more about plants and trees in Science, as well as making our own seaside landscapes in Art.

In RE this half term we will be learning about the Muslim festival of Eid and the traditions of Ramadan. If you have any photographs or special items that your could share with us, or if you would like to come in and talk to the children about Eid and Ramadan, this would be greatly appreciated.

More details about our learning this half term can be found with the attached curriculum information. We are also sending out the Knowledge Organisers which the children use in Geography and Science. These will give you specific information about the exact knowledge that children need to know and remember. The children have these Knowledge Organisers in their books and they fill them in as they go along, ensuring that they can recall knowledge learnt. We really hope that you find these a useful tool for enabling you to discuss learning with your children and to reinforce the facts that the children need to know. Please ask us if you have any further questions about this.

PE

There is a change to our PE days this term. We will be working on our ball skills on a **Monday** and working with the PE Service to do Athletics based fundamental movement on a **Thursday**. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school, unless we have made specific arrangements for your child to wear their PE kit to school on these days.

The photos below are a snapshot from last term. We were particularly proud of the children during their trip to Woodhorn Colliery. They represented our school very well indeed and loved learning about the life of a coal miner. Please follow us on Twitter @BirchclassHFS to see more photos like these.



You may have seen that we welcomed Dan from Clennel services last half term to discuss kindness and treating our friends with care and respect. As class teachers, we support them with this on a daily basis and we have regular conversations about good choices and kindness. We are passionate about ensuring children feel both happy and secure and we work hard to make them feel safe and cared for at school. In Class we have put in place talking boxes for children to share their worries. We have play leaders who encourage and lead active games at play time which support our PE Values and of course we now have our fantastic yard markings which we have already seen have an impact to focus and structure the children's play. The reflection room in Heather class is staffed by a member of the senior leadership team every lunch time. As well as being a space for some children to take time to be calm and reflect, it is also a place where children can come and chat about any playtime problems they are having.

Please do continue to communicate any concerns or worries you or your child may have about playtime issues.

We are pleased to welcome two student teachers to Birch Class this term.

Miss Fitzpatrick and Mr Holden are PGCE final year students from Northumbria university. They will be beginning their placement this week and will be with us until June.

If you attended our Phonics meeting last half term you will know all about our preparation for The Year 1 Phonics Screen at the beginning of June: more information to follow. If you missed this meeting or would like to refresh your memory, you can find the power point presentation on our school website. If you have any questions about this or need any further information about anything else please do not hesitate to get in touch via e mail or telephone

Many Thanks

Sally McMillan