



Birch Class News

Welcome back to Birch Class!

I hope that you all had a restful and peaceful Christmas break. Mrs B and I would like to thank you all very much for your generous Christmas gifts, they were much appreciated. We were all incredibly proud of Year One who not only shone like the stars they are in our Christmas performance, but blew us all away with their brilliant singing on the last day of term. I'm sure you will all agree that it was a lovely way to start the Christmas holidays.

We are full of enthusiasm for the new year and another exciting half term in Birch Class. The children are already off to a great start and it has been lovely to have them all back together in class this week.

We have a new Geography based Topic in Year One this half term "Which country do we live in? We will be learning all about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, More details about this topic can be found with the attached curriculum information.

Reading and phonics:

We are pleased with the progress the children are making both in phonics and reading. They are enjoying our group reading sessions and are applying the skills they have learnt in our daily phonics sessions. Please continue to practise reading with your child as regularly as possible. You may have noticed that on the inside cover of each book there is a list of digraphs, tricky words and vocabulary, which we use in our group reading sessions. Reinforcing this work by asking your child about the meaning of new vocabulary and checking that they are able to read all of the digraphs and tricky words automatically will help them both with their reading fluency and their understanding of the text.

PE

Our PE Days in Birch Class will be **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. We have a gymnastics unit this term, alongside the fundamental movement unit delivered by Lewis from NUF. We continue to ask that the children come in their PE kit on the days that they have PE, we will re-assess this at half term. We all enjoy our daily run as well as use of the website GoNoodle. This is an excellent resource to keep children active and includes different movement types such as the guided dance which the children love, but it also includes sensory and motor skills, mindfulness and social and emotional support activities. If you would like to use this at home you just need to register your e mail.



The photos below are a snapshot of learning from last half term. Please follow us on Twitter to find out more about our learning in Birch Class. We are @BirchclassHFS



We continue to work hard to ensure that the children are happy and settled and as ever communication between home and school is key. Please do not hesitate to pop in and see me or to contact me by telephone or e mail if you have any queries or concerns.

I am also usually available before and after school.

Many Thanks
Sally McMillan