



## Birch Class: Autumn Term 2 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable half term.

We can't wait for this half term's new topic, "*Alchemy Island*" where we'll be going on a magical journey to find the hidden gold! Reading stories set in fantasy worlds will inspire our own story openings. We'll manipulate digital photographs, adding fantastical special effects. Our geography skills will improve as we look closely at maps of Alchemy Island, plotting routes and using coordinates. We'll examine samples from the island, explore the properties of materials and experiment with changes of state. If we're going to find gold, we'd better find out all about it! In English we'll write soliloquies and poems inspired by the island's magical powers and dramatic landscape. A coding programme will help us to plot and correct errors in our route, and we'll use technology to create beautiful digital images. We'll compose raps and use sound effects and mood music to reflect the atmosphere on Alchemy Island.

### Help your child prepare for their project

Start your mysterious journey to Alchemy Island at home! Why not investigate foods together that change state when they are heated or cooled? You could also find a book to read together which is set in a fantasy world. Alternatively, create a map of your own fantasy island – what landmarks will you include?



For more home learning ideas, we will be sending out a sheet for the children to choose from. We would like the children to choose at least two activities from the sheet. Please email your child's homework into school, or post on Seesaw, by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, so that we can celebrate and share the children's home learning with the class.

### Learning areas this half term

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| Lead topic subject/s:<br>Science, Computing,<br>Geography and<br>Music | The children will listen to and learn about composing music, recording and editing software and graphic scores. In computing, we will learn about photography, debugging programs and gaming. Science will focus on properties and changes of materials, and working scientifically. In geography, we will be map reading, using coordinates and looking at human and physical features. |
| English  | In English, we will be reading fantasy narratives to base our setting descriptions on, writing soliloquies, poetry and lyrics. The children will continue to have weekly spellings to practise which link to the National Curriculum expectations for Year 5/6. Please do look out for these on Seesaw, as the spellings are tested on a Friday.   |
| Maths  | Our focus this half term Monday to Wednesday is multiplication and division. On Thursday and Fridays, we will be measuring the perimeter and area of shapes. Times tables and fluency in arithmetic skills will be ongoing.  |

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| RE  | Our RE unit this half term will be 'Gospel: What would Jesus do?'  |
| P.E | P.E is taught regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays. Tuesday is outdoor PE so please ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing and footwear.<br>This half term we will be taking part in a virtual school dance competition, with the theme of 'Lockdown', whereby the children will perform a dance to a piece of music expressing their lockdown experiences. The children will take part in the challenge by watching other West Sussex schools and performing via Zoom. Wish us luck! |

### **Reading**

Reading continues to be a really important part of your child's home learning and we would encourage you to read with them daily. This can be them reading to you or you sharing a book with them. Unfortunately, for the time being, we are still not able to send the children home with school books. However, all children have a log in for Read Theory which focuses on comprehension of short texts. Also, the Oxford Owl website has a range of free ebooks which suit all age and abilities, so please do have a look, if you haven't already.

### **Maths at home**

Although the children will not be set maths homework weekly, we hope that they will still practise their mental number skills: times tables and efficient methods to calculate mentally. Telling the time (in digital and analogue) and working out time intervals, i.e how long until dinnertime? is also something that can be practised easily at home. All the children also have a log in for TT Rockstars and Prodigy which can be accessed from laptops, iPads and smart phones.

We are really looking forward to this half term, and we hope the children are too. We would also like to welcome our new teaching assistant, Tori Kelly, to Chidham. We are really looking forward to working with her in Birch Class.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on:  
[jseton@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:jseton@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk) and [kparkin@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:kparkin@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Mrs Jo Seton and Mrs Katie Parkin (the Year 5 team)