

# Birch Class: Spring Term 2 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are keeping well and safe. The last half term was indeed a challenging one for all, and we are grateful to you for all for your continued support. We are really looking forward to getting back to normality and seeing all the children back together again, just as soon as we are allowed.

Our new topic is called **'Stargazers'**

*"Journey through space, the final frontier. Navigate beyond the Sun, the magnificent, blazing star at the centre of our Solar System. Investigate the eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Take a look at the Moon, a celestial body that orbits Earth. Programme a rover to traverse a lunar landscape and work scientifically to investigate gravity, and what happens when there is none. Compare the times of day at different places on the Earth and use GPS satellite navigation systems to track hidden treasure. Get in a spin making simple models of the Solar System and listen to the haunting sounds of space themed songs. Then it's 3, 2, 1, blast off. Build and launch a rocket for an important test mission. Exploring space is probably the greatest adventure that humankind has ever undertaken. Are we alone? Or are there other life forms out there?"*



We are sure the children will be enthralled by this topic!

We will be sending out a sheet of homework for all children to complete. This is in addition to the daily online lessons we will be setting during lockdown for the children at home. There will be one compulsory task to complete this half term, as well as at least one other from the options available. Please email in homework or upload to Seesaw by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## Learning areas this half term

<b>Lead topic subject:</b> <b>Science</b>	The children will work scientifically to learn all about Earth and space, including our solar system, the moon, life in space and gravity.
<b>Other foundation subjects</b>	In <b>Computing</b> lessons, we will be learning about programming and using stop motion animation. We will be selecting materials, researching and writing evaluations in <b>Design and Technology</b> . <b>Geography</b> lessons will focus on locating physical features. In <b>History</b> , we will look at significant individuals, such as Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton, in addition to significant and historic events such as the 1960s space race. We will listen to <b>Music</b> , and study song lyrics and in <b>Art and Design</b> , we will be looking at and creating moon phases.
<b>English</b>	In English, we will be looking at myths and legends, free verse poetry, newspaper reports and descriptions. 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 week's spellings are tested each Friday.
<b>Maths</b>	Our focus this half term Monday to Wednesday is fractions and Thursdays and Fridays, position and direction. Times tables and fluency in arithmetic skills will be ongoing through TTRockstars and Fluent in Five tasks.

<b>RE</b>	Our RE unit this half term will be, 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' (What is the great significance of the Eucharist for Christians?) We will also be focussing on the Easter story.
<b>P.E</b>	PE lessons will be on a Friday this half term, when we will be playing net and wall games, such as table tennis and badminton. We will also be continuing with the West Sussex Schools Sports Partnership virtual challenges for home and school. Please continue to join in at home and submit your scores - details will be uploaded on Seesaw. *There will be no PE on a Tuesday this half term, due to Forest School taking place on Wednesdays with Mrs Webb. Please read the Forest School letter sent out via ParentMail for further details on this.

### **Home Learning**

Many thanks to all the lovely home learning we have seen over the past few weeks. Until we are all allowed to return to school, we will continue to set the same work for home on Seesaw as we are doing at school. The Government guidance is that children in KS2 should spend 4 hours a day on their learning.

### **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. All children have a log in for Read Theory which focuses on comprehension of short texts. If you need the log-in resending, please let us know. 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. We intend to continue with our guided reading tasks where possible at home and at school.

\*It is particularly important that the children at home are listening to the daily recordings of the class story on Seesaw, to ensure they are up to date on their return.

### **Maths at home**

Along with the daily maths lessons, the children still need to become proficient at mental maths skills: we hope they continue to use TTRockstars to practise their times tables and to play games to develop efficient methods to calculate mentally. All the children also have a log in for Prodigy which can be accessed from laptops, iPads and smart phones.

### **Other**

This half term we will be taking part in Red Nose Day, and we will be celebrating World Book Day – please look out for more information on this on the Friday Fliers.

Miss Hannah Richards (final year B.Ed (Hons) student) will be continuing to work with us until Easter. Those at school, are really enjoying working with her in the classroom.

We understand what a challenging time this is for you all and we can't wait to get all the children back to school again. In the meantime, 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)