



Birch Class: Autumn Term 2 2021



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.



Learning areas this half term

Lead topic subject/s: Science, Computing, Geography and 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.
RE	Our RE unit this half term will be 'Incarnation: What is the Trinity?'
P.E	P.E is taught regularly on Tuesdays and where possible will be outdoors, so please ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing and footwear. On Wednesdays, the children will have Forest School. Please remember to send the children with coats and wellies

Topic homework

All children are expected to complete the performance poem or song task and then at least one more of the activities. Please email the homework, post on Seesaw or bring into school by Monday 13th December to be celebrated and shared with the class. Challenge yourself to do a type of homework you haven't done before.

	<p><u>All children need to:</u></p> <p>Find the words to a fantasy poem or song to learn off by heart. Record your performance and post on Seesaw or perform at school. Now choose at least one more task from the ideas below</p>	
<p>Make a list of foods that change state when heated or cooled. Cook a dish for your family (not to come into school) that includes foods from your list. Explain how they have changed state.</p>	<p>Find out about the work of an alchemist and write a non-chronological report, including facts, diagrams and illustrations</p>	<p>Find out about the life and work of famous chemists in history. Write a short biography of a chemist who sparks your interest, such as Marie Curie or Robert Boyle.</p>
<p>Alchemist's travelling kit Design a costume for an alchemist to go travelling in – make sure he has all he needs for his adventures. He will a bag of some sort to carry and collect all the useful things that he might need or might find.</p>	<p>Read or watch 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' or 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' Write a review for your friends and describe the main characters. How many stars would you award it? Explain why you did, or did not, enjoy the book or film.</p>	<p>Research popular children's stories that feature portals into other worlds. Draw a picture of your favourite portal from other stories and surround with descriptive phrases.</p>
<p>Portals are gateways to another world. Make a door/gateway that opens and behind it design and create a world that would surprise or astound us.</p>		<p>Find out if your family owns any objects that contain gold or another precious metal or gemstone. Write a fact sheet about the importance of the item.</p>
<p>Good reads Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone JK Rowling 9781408855652 Shadow Forest Matt Haig 9780552555630 Macbeth (A Shakespeare Story) Andrew Matthews 9781841213446 Jumanji Chris Van Allsburg 9781783446766 Crystal and Gem (DK Eyewitness) DK Books 9781409343776 Frozen in Time Ali Sparkes 9780192734006 The Apothecary Maile Meloy 9781849395069 The Tempest (A Shakespeare Story) Andrew Matthews 9781841213460</p>		
<p>Useful websites: DKfindout! – Solids, liquids and gases Robert Boyle Ducksters – crystals BBC Bitesize – Who was Marie Curie? BBC Teach – class clip of Macbeth</p>		

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. The children can bring books home from school and the book they bring home may be easier than their current level of reading to encourage fluency and enjoyment.

Spelling

Weekly spellings are posted on Seesaw on a Sunday and tested on a Friday. As well as the spellings on their list, they will be given an extra word that practises the spelling rule/pattern, along with the common exception words. They will also be given some words from previous weeks. The children will be given a Spelling Frame log-in should they wish to practise by playing games. However, it is recommended that spellings are practised by hand too, little and often. The spellings for Autumn 2 are:

Week beginning:	Spelling rule and common exception words
1 st Nov	social, official, special, artificial, crucial controversy, convenience
8 th Nov	partial, confidential, essential, torrential, influential correspond, criticise
15 th Nov	farther, further, father, guessed, guest, heard, herd curiosity, definite
22 nd Nov	led, lead, morning, mourning, past, passed desperate, determined
29 th Nov	develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment,
6 th Dec	controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, curiosity, definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment
13 th Dec	Test of random words from this half term

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 that can be accessed from laptops, iPads and smart phones.

PE

As a school, we are using Real PE for at least one of our PE lessons. The children will all be given a log-in that gives them access to the site and opportunities to practise their skills at home.

Dates for this term

Tues 9 th November	Individual class photos
Wed 17 th November	Flu jabs
Mon 15 th -Thurs 18 th Nov	Anti Bullying Week: One Kind Word
Thurs 18 th November	Wear something blue for anti bullying
Fri 19 th November	Children in Need: Together We Can. Wear your own clothes

Thurs 2 nd December	RE link: Church leader visits Birch class
Fri 9 th December	Children's Christmas Fair – during the school day
Mon 13 th December	St Mary's Church Christmas Service 2pm
Tues 14 th December	Bring your own Christmas breakfast
Wed 15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 16 th December	Christmas hat day. Bring your own or make one at school
Fri 17 th December	Christmas outfit day. Bring your own Christmas packed lunch

We are really looking forward to this half term and we hope the children are too. The STEM Enthuse Project at Bourne Community College on our first day back was a brilliant start to the new term!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on:
jseton@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk and sclark@chidham.w-sussex.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mrs Jo Seton and Mrs Steph Clark (the Year 5 team)