



Birch Class Curriculum Letter

January 2023



English

Writing

The children will be expanding the range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry styles they can write and revising those that they already know. Key texts that we will be taking inspiration from include; Jack and the Baked Beanstalk, Fantastic Mr Fox, The Paper Bag Princess, the Day the Crayons Quit and the Diary of a Killer Cat. Using these key texts, the children will take part in a range of modelled, guided, shared and independent writing activities to support their writing development. We will continue to encourage the children to write longer sentences including conjunctions and to include a range of descriptive language, such as adjectives, adverbs, interesting verbs and similes. We will consolidate what they learnt about simple punctuation in Year 1 and the autumn term of Year 2 and build on this so that the children are able to use a wider range of punctuation, including speech marks, commas, apostrophes, questions marks and exclamation marks. Understanding how these different elements of language, grammar and punctuation can become their writers' tools to become a more effective writer underpins our Year 2 writing curriculum.



Reading, spelling and handwriting

Guided reading lessons will continue to focus on developing the children's fluency and expression but as they are all now reading at a higher level, comprehension of what they are reading and expanding their vocabulary are also key priorities. Our guided reading texts this term are Fantastic Mr Fox and Diary of a Killer Cat. The children will look at answering questions that require them to sequence key events, retrieve information and infer things from what they have read.

Spellings will continue to be tested each week but we will be changing the way in which we test. Each week the children will be tested on 5 of their new spelling words and then 5 spelling words from the previous weeks. This is so that the children can help improve their retrieval of their spelling words and enable them to apply them to their work.

Mathematics

Mathematics in the Spring Term of Year 2 covers the following topics:

Multiplication and Division

- Understanding multiplication as adding equal groups
- Writing multiplication number sentences
- To solve pictorial multiplication problems
- To know the 2, 5 and 10 times tables
- To know what odd and even numbers are and how recognise them
- To divide by sharing into equal groups
- Dividing by 2, 5 and 10 (linking to multiplication)

Statistics

- To make and interpret tally charts
- To make and interpret pictograms
- To make and interpret block diagrams

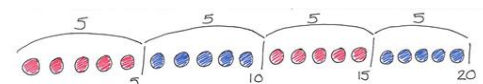
Money

- Revision of coins and notes
- counting money
- making different amounts
- adding and subtracting with money
- finding change

Fractions

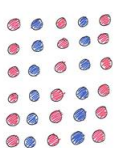
- To recognise and find a half, a quarter, a third, and three quarters
- To identify unit and non unit fractions
- To count in fractions
- To understand the equivalence of half and two quarters

Here are some of the ways in which multiplication and division are taught in Year 2:



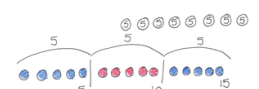
Counting in steps ('Clever' counting)

Count in 2s, 5s and 10s



Doubling and halving - begin to double multiples of 5 to 100 e.g. double 35 is 70
Begin to double two-digit numbers less than 50 with 1s digits of 1, 2, 3 4 or 5

Grouping - begin to understand that multiplication is repeated addition and to use arrays, e.g. 6×5 is six rows of five dots
Begin to learn the 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables, seeing these as 'lots of', e.g. 5 lots of 2, 6 lots of 2, 7 lots of 2, etc.



Understand that 5×3 can be worked out as three 5s or five 3s.

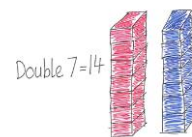
Using number facts

Double numbers up to 20

Start learning 2, 5 and 10 times tables, and relate to clever counting e.g. $5 \times 10 = 50$ and 10, 20, 30, 40, 50

is five steps in the ten count

Begin to count in 3s.



Counting in steps ('Clever' counting)

Count in 2s, 5s and 10s

Begin to count in 3s

Doubling and halving

Find half of numbers up to 40, including realizing that half of an odd number gives a remainder of 1 or an answer containing a $\frac{1}{2}$

Begin to know half of multiples of 10 to 100, e.g. half of 70 is 35

Grouping

Relate division to multiplication by using arrays of towers of cubes to find answers to division, e.g. how many towers of five cubes can I make from 20 cubes as $? \times 5 = 20$ and also $20 \div 5 = ?$

Relate division to grouping. (E.g. how many groups of five in fifteen?)



Sharing

Begin to find quarter of quantity using sharing, e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 16 cubes by sorting the cubes into 4 piles

Find $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a quantity of objects and of amounts (whole number answers)

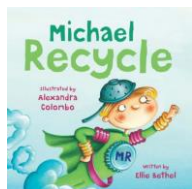
Number Facts

Know halves of even numbers to 24

Know $2x$, $5x$, and $10x$ division facts (begin to know $3x$ division facts)

Science

The two science topics covered this term are 'Uses of Everyday Materials - Recycling' and 'Plants'. Within the first topic, the children will learn about the properties of everyday materials as well as how and why we can recycle them. The children will be turning old paper into new paper and testing the biodegradability of different materials by burying them outside and leaving them for a period of time.



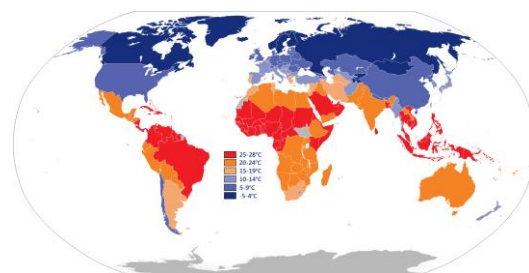
Later on in the term we will be looking at plants and the children will be identifying and labelling the parts of a flower, investigating what seeds and bulbs need to grow, looking at the lifecycle of flowering plants and learning about seed dispersal.

Humanities



The first topic this term will be our history topic which is Norman castles and we will be looking at who the Normans were, why and where they built castles in the U.K and how the design of castles developed over time. We will look at life in a castle and in England in mediaeval times as well as how to attack and defend a castle.

After half term, will be our geography topic on 'Hot and Cold Places'. The children will be learning about the difference between climate and weather, the different climate zones that make up our world, the equator and the poles and how people and animals have adapted to living in different places.



Art and DT

This half term, in line with our history topic on castles the children will be designing their own catapults to attack a model castle. We will look at different mechanisms and ways of joining materials so that they can develop their designs ready to demonstrate them before the Easter holidays. After half term, we will focus on sculpture. The children will be planning and creating their own sculptures, learning about how different artists use both colour and texture in their work.

Computing

This term the children will be learning about algorithms and simple coding. After half term, the children will be looking at data and information. They can collect data, digitally make pictograms and block diagrams and interpret what they have made, which links very strongly with some of the maths this term.

Music

This term in music children will begin to learn the ukulele and using their knowledge of notation to help them play different rhythms as well as learn new chords and songs. The children will also continue to learn about different composers through our 'Composer of the Fortnight' series and their place in history.

Spanish

Spanish will be taught once a week over the term. The children will be building their cultural awareness of Spain and beginning to learn more about the country. Children will carry out a variety of interactive and fun activities to build their range of Spanish phonics and vocabulary.

Physical Education

Over the term, the children will have two P.E. lessons a week. One session will be outdoors learning netball and hockey and the other session will be indoors doing gymnastics and health and fitness.

Star of the Week

Every week I will be looking for outstanding examples of the school's DARE values and I will be giving out a Star of the Week certificate to a child in the class who has consistently demonstrated one or more of the values throughout the week, this will be done in our whole school celebration assembly on a Friday.



Home Learning

Home Learning will be sent out on a Wednesday and should be handed in by the following Tuesday. Children are expected to read at home for 5-10 minutes every night and to bring their planner to school every day.

Please do not hesitate to come and ask me any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Begbie