

## Birch Curriculum Overview- Spring Term

Dear Parent,

This document will provide you with information about some of the topics we will be working on this term, and ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. There is also guidance detailing what additional items your child will need during the week for all additional curricular activities

### What we will do in school...

### What you could do together at home...

#### Science

This term in science we will be learning about the 'Forces and Magnets'. The students will learn about the different types of forces, how forces are in action constantly in our everyday lives and investigating objects, that are both magnetic and non-magnetic. The students will also carry out investigations involving other forces such as air and water resistance.

Discuss the forces used at home, e.g. what forces are acting when we open and close the door. Pointing out objects at home which need a push or pull? Ask your child what they have learned about forces.

#### Literacy

We will continue to develop the students' writing skills by learning how to construct sentences, using a range of punctuation and conjunctions to add detail. Birch will also continue to complete weekly comprehension tasks, where the focus will be on extracting key information by answering who, what and why questions. This term the focus will be on texts linked to our topic 'World War 2'.

Continue to encourage them to write about their interests, Pokémon etc. If they don't enjoy recording using pen and paper, use a computer and encourage them to type their thoughts. Hear them read, ask them questions about the book they are reading (I've added a list of questions you could ask in H.S book) Encourage them to read a range of texts such as magazines or comics.

#### Humanities

Birch's humanities sessions will focus on World War 2, where the students will learn about how the historical events of this impacted on the lives of people living in Britain. We will look at how and why children were evacuated, rationing and how and why the war started.

Discuss what they know and have learned about this event. Encourage them to watch programmes or read books that focus on this period of history. Maybe a visit to Bletchley to learn about the 'Codebreaking' machine would foster interest. If you have any family members that lived through the war, encourage them to share their memories with your child.

#### PSHE

This term the students will be developing their awareness about the environment. They will be learning about the impact that human behaviour is having on the planet, such as global warming, and actions that can be taken to protect the Earth.

Encourage your child to watch or read news reports about the environmental issues. Encourage them to recycle at home. Talk about saving energy, by switching off lights etc.

#### Maths

In our maths lessons we will continue to focus on the functional skills of using money, time and measuring. We will be learning how to develop the students' problem solving skills in relation to all these areas. We shall also continue to focus on the 4 number operations of + - x and ÷. We shall also continue to learn the multiplication tables.

Continue to talk to your child when you are at the shops, pointing out numbers, prices and use key vocabulary such as, what is the cheapest and most expensive? Look at bus or train timetables, asking simple questions, e.g. What time is the next bus/ train arriving? Try discussing how you manage a weekly budget, for example how they use their pocket money.

Please note:

## Life Skills - Monday

The students will visit a local supermarket on Monday mornings to buy snack food and cooking items, this enables them to develop their organisational, money management skills and most importantly their self- confidence when accessing the community.



## Yoga - Monday

Can you please send your child in with comfortable clothes, e.g. track suit bottoms.



## Forest Schools - Wednesdays

The students will be starting forest schools this term, can you ensure that they have wellington boots and adequate clothing (Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and warm coat) for this activity.



## Home-School Book

We record in the home-school book to inform you of any important information regarding your child, such as any special achievements or any anxieties they may have had during the day. A sheet informing you what your child has been learning during the week will also be sent every Friday (This will be inserted into the book) we will also put important letters in the book. **Please try to read the book every day.**

Please feel free to write what your child has been up to at home, any achievements, any concerns or questions you may have. If your child has missed breakfast, or had a bad night's sleep - please let us know so that we can attend to them accordingly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact **Liam, Sandra, Sam, Susan or Emma.**