



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to Year 2 and to Birch Class! We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are excited about being back at school to begin a brand new academic year. Along with this letter, you will also receive a copy of this term's topic web which provides an outline of the teaching and learning experiences for the Autumn term.

The start of the term will be focused on helping the children to return to school and adapt to new teachers and routines, a new learning environment and expectations. We will be supporting the children through all of these new experiences and helping them with this transition.

Our topic for this term is "Where in the World?" The children will be developing their knowledge of our world through maps, globes and atlases and looking carefully at continents, oceans and different climates.

This year Birch Class will continue to use the Big Cat Phonics reading books which were used throughout Year 1. The children will be reading in a group three times a week and will then bring home the book they have practised to read with their families. The book will only contain phonics with which children are secure and they should be able to read the book with fluency and accuracy. We would like your child to read this book to you every day for the next week, when it will be changed for their next reading book. It is vitally important that the children read the books many times in order that they develop as fluent and expressive readers with good understanding of the text. Re-reading a book they can read well doesn't mean it is too easy, it means they are being given opportunities to consolidate and embed tricky words, GPCs (sounds) and high frequency words. Your child will also take home a "sharing book" which is a book for parents to read to/with their children.

In Year 2, once children are ready they will be moved onto the Big Cat Fluency reading Scheme with books for more fluent readers and will take part in whole class reading sessions to develop their comprehension and fluency skills.

All books must be looked after carefully please as, if we lose just one book, the whole set becomes unusable. We would appreciate it if you could leave the book (which will be given out in a plastic wallet) in your child's book bag and only take it out for your child to read before putting it back in the book bag. Can we also ask that you don't put water bottles into book bags to ensure there are no spillages leading to soggy pages!

**Books will be changed every Friday.**

Many thanks for your help and support with this.

#### **Spellings:**

The children will be set spellings each week and will be tested in school every **Friday**. The spellings will then be marked and new spellings will be given out on a **Monday**. The first set of spellings will be handed out on **Monday 16th September** in preparation for the children's first test on **Friday 20th September**. Children are encouraged to practise their spellings at home in the front of their spelling books with parental support. Spelling tests will be recorded in the back of the spelling book so you are able to view your child's progress. The best spellers are those who practise a little every day!

#### **Phonics/Spelling**

Phonics teaching will be daily and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Programme. Children will be grouped for these sessions according to their level of fluency with reading. Some children will move onto receiving Little Wandle Spelling lessons after October half term which provide a gradual shift from phonics and decoding to learning spelling rules.

#### **PE:**

In addition to the daily 'Golden Mile', the children will have P.E. on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. Please ensure your child comes into school wearing their PE kit on these days and it would also be useful for your child to have jogging bottoms (green or black) for the colder months. If your child wears earrings, these will need to be either removed for P.E. days or medical tape can be

kept in their P.E. bag for your child to cover them up (the children will be responsible for applying and removing the tape). Any children with long hair must always have their hair tied back.

**Values:**

In Term 1 we will be learning all about "Thankfulness"

Thinking of good things

Happy memories

All creation praising God

Not taking anything for granted

Keeping focused on the positive

Feeling blessed

Understanding the sacrifices people make for us

Living joyfully

Not complaining

Expressing gratitude to God

Saying thank you to those who help us

Showing gratefulness by our deeds



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone or make an appointment via the School Office.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Birch Class team.

Miss Dancer and Mrs Millington.