



Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Autumn Term 1



Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to Year 2 and to Birch Class! I 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 also used throughout Year 1. Each week, your child will bring home a new reading book along with a reading record. The reading record is for you to record home reading, helping us to be more involved with your child's reading experiences.

We encourage children to read daily wherever possible. Re-reading familiar books is especially valuable, as it helps children develop fluency, expression, and a deeper understanding of the text. It also provides opportunities to consolidate and embed tricky words, GPCs (sounds), and high-frequency words.

In addition, your child will have the option to take home a *sharing book* from the library. This is a book for parents to enjoy reading to or with their child. We visit the library once a week, and children are welcome to change their sharing book weekly if they wish.

In Year 2, once children are ready, they will progress to the *Big Cat Fluency* reading scheme, which is designed for more confident readers. They will also take part in whole-class reading sessions to further 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 8th September** in preparation for the children's first test on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Children will take part in daily phonics lessons following the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme. After October half term, they will begin *Little Wandle Spelling* lessons. These provide a gradual shift from phonics and decoding skills to learning spelling patterns and rules.

In addition to completing the daily *Golden Mile*, children will have PE lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On these days, please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit.

If your child wears earrings, these should be removed on PE days. Alternatively, medical tape may be kept in their PE bag so they can cover their earrings themselves (children are responsible for applying and removing the tape).

Children with long hair must always have it tied back for PE.

### Values:

In Term 1 we will be learning all about "**Generosity**"

Giving something we value to someone else

Encouraging the best in each other

Never selfish

Enjoying helping others

Raising support for a good cause

Offering what we can

Sharing our time and talents

Inviting someone to join in

Taking care of God's creation for future generations

You first, me last.



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, Mrs Millington and Miss Traynor