

Year 2 Ash and Birch Newsletter – Autumn Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers:

First of all, we would like to thank you for all your support in the first half-term. The children have settled in well and we're grateful for your efforts in getting your child to school promptly and ready to learn. After a challenging start to this half term with a week of home learning we are really excited to get back to school and for all the learning we have ahead of us. Again, thank you for your support during the week of home learning. The following is an overview of what your child will learn this half-term.

In **English**, we will begin by reading 'The Hunter' by Paul Geraughty. We will make predictions, write letters and retell the stories. After this we will read 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' and 'Wangari's Trees of Peace'. All these texts are set in Kenya, and we will be able to make links and comparisons between them as well as learning more about our topic. We will go on to read *Pass It on: African-American Poetry for Children*, where we will learn to perform poems from the book as well as to write and perform our own poetry. We will finish the half term by reading books about caring for the environment such as 'Dear Greenpeace,' and using these texts and our learning in Science to create an information book on looking after our world.

Please continue to **read** with your child every day for at least 15 minutes and discuss what has happened in the text to ensure that your child can show understanding and develop their vocabulary. Your child has been given a reading book to take home and will have their books updated on Bug Club.

Our first **Maths** focus this half-term will be addition and subtraction before moving on to money then geometry. As always, we will be practising our problem solving and reasoning skills to make sure that the children can apply the mathematical skills we are learning to solve real-life problems.

Our **Geography** topic will focus on Kenya. We will learn how to locate a country on a world map and name the continents and oceans. We will be exploring the climate and weather of Kenya, as well as the animals that live there. We will learn about the different compass points, compare the different landscapes within Kenya, and identify similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK.



In **Science**, our topic will be The Environment. We will explore climate change, think about how to reduce waste and save energy and find out about endangered animals and their habitats.

In **Music**, the children will continue their drumming lessons on a Wednesday. Our in-class learning will focus on two units, 'Weather' and 'Pattern', which will explore making sounds and creating rhythms.

Our 'big question' in **Religious Education** this term is: *Where is the light of Christmas?* In this unit, we will explore the role of light in the Christmas story and its significance for Christians as a representation of goodness.

Please note, at the moment **P.E.** is on **Fridays**. This may change when **swimming** starts, but we will let you know as soon as our days for swimming and PE have been confirmed. Please ensure your child has the correct kit on these days.

In **Computing**, we will be learning about Online Safety and how to be kind online. We will also be developing our programming skills with Beebots, Bluebots and the Beebot app.

Homework will be distributed with new spellings to learn each week. Spellings are tested on **Mondays**. Please read the homework carefully to find details of this half-term's project about Kenya. The extra optional Maths and English homework is posted onto Teams and we can also give you a paper copy. Please let us know if you would like to receive it.

Please do come and speak to us if you have any queries.

Best Wishes,

Ms. Naidoo, Ms. Sheppard, Tina and Zin

