



Birch Class

Meet the Teachers - September 2025

Miss Ramsay/ Ms Skinner



- Welcome to Birch Class
- 23 children: 10 boys, 13 girls
- Teaching Assistant: Mr McKenna (Mon, Tues and Thurs morning)
- Teachers: Miss Ramsay & Ms Skinner (Fridays)



Beginning and end of the day

- Drop off between 8:45 and 9am
- Please drop children outside the classroom. Parents are not able to come inside the building.

This is not a time to talk to the teaching team as they are welcoming and settling children. Please pass a message to the staff on the playground (SLT in high viz), send a Dojo message, speak to the teacher at the end of the day or leave a message with the office.

- Collection is 3:30pm
- Please do not allow children of any age to play on playground equipment or go onto the field.



What will we be learning?

- The key learning for all subjects each half term is shared in a topic web – see the class website page and Dojo (Autumn 1 on next slide)
- There will continue to be updates in the newsletter each week.
- Every half term we will ensure children experience a visit, trip or special event to enhance their learning – keep an eye on emails for details.



English Narrative: We will be studying the narrative text Mini Rabbit-Not Lost, identifying the key features and writing our own stories. Poetry: We will be looking at different examples of free verse poems and creating our own. (NC Links) • Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material. • Create settings, characters and plots. • Extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of <u>conjunctions</u>. • Use a thesaurus to find interesting alternatives. • Assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements.	P.E Outdoor Adventurous Activities Gymnastics (NC links) • Develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance. • Take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team. • Compare their performance with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their best.	Year 3 Maths (NC Links) Number- number and place value • Count in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100. Find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number. • Recognise the place value of each digit in a three- digit <u>number</u>. • Compare and order numbers up to 1000 • Identify, represent and estimate numbers using different <u>representation</u>. • Read and write numbers up to 1000 in numerals and <u>words</u>. Number- addition and subtraction • Add and subtract numbers mentally, including: • a three-digit number and ones • a three- digit number and tens • a three digit number and hundreds • Add and subtract numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of column addition and subtraction. • Solve problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value and more complex addition and subtraction.
PSHE Beginning and Belonging	Religious Education Judaism • What influences the Jewish people?	Science Light (NC Links) • Recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light. • Notice that light is reflected from surfaces. • Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes. • Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object. • Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.
Geography Mountains and Volcanoes • Mountains and their features • Where are famous mountains and mountain ranges in the UK and the world? • The making of mountains. • Mountain animals and how they are adapted to their environments. • Volcanoes and their features. • What happens when a volcano erupts? • The advantages and disadvantages of volcanoes.	DT Design, make and evaluate a Christmas stocking. (N.C Links) Use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that are fit for purpose. Evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria.	History The Ancient Egyptians • Why was the River Nile so important to the Ancient Egyptians? • We will explore the daily life, culture and beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians, including their homes, food and clothing. • We will learn about the role of the pharaohs as powerful leaders and gods, discovering famous figures like Tutankhamun and Cleopatra.
Music Sing Up  I've been to Harlem (NC Links): Singing, playing, composing/improvising and listening. Begin to develop an understanding and appreciation of music from different musical traditions.	Art Gestural drawing with charcoal To introduce the children to the idea of making gestural drawings exploring charcoal as a medium. (NC Links) To record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas. To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing with a range of materials (for example, pencil, charcoal).	
	MFL • Describing me and others. (NC Links) Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.	
	Computing Purple Mash- Online Safety Purple Mash- Touch Typing (NC Links) Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.	

Year 3 – Autumn Term 1



English

Daily English:

- Consists of teacher input, shared text, practical activities, guided groups, group work, independent work, teacher or TA assisted work.
- 15 minute sessions of each, everyday:
Handwriting, guided reading, spelling.
- Mixed and ability groupings
- Catch up sessions and interventions as needs arise



Reading

- Children visit the school library once per week and we also have a class library.
- Children can change their books when they need to. There are no set days. Children get some time each day for quiet reading and are expected to read at home each day.
- In addition to our guided reading taught sessions, we also share a class book each term.

Our class book at the moment is the Boy Who Stole the Pharaoh's Lunch



Maths

- Every day
Consists of teacher input, practical activities, group work, independent work, teacher or TA assisted work.
- Mental Arithmetic/Recall and Times tables
15 minute sessions of both every day
- Mixed and ability groupings.
- Catch up sessions and interventions where needs arise.



Weekly Timetable

Year 3 Timetable

DT – blocked sessions throughout term

	8.45 - 9	9 - 9.15	9.15 - 9.30	9.30 – 10.30		10.30- 10.45	10.45 – 11	11 – 11.15	11.15 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.15		12.15 – 1.15	1.15 – 1.25	1.25 – 3pm		3.00 – 3.20	
MONDAY	Registration Morning work/reading	Timetables	Maths revisit/arithmetic	Maths		Break	Handwriting	Spelling	Guided Reading	English		Lunch	Registration/Library	1.25- 2.10 Geography		2.10-3.00 Art	Whole School Assembly
TUESDAY	Registration Morning work/reading	Timetables	Maths revisit/arithmetic	Maths		Break	Handwriting	Spelling	Guided Reading	English		Lunch	Registration/reading	1.25-2.10 P.E (Indoor)		2.10-3.00 History	Singing Assembly
WEDNESDAY	Registration Morning work/reading	Timetables	Maths revisit/arithmetic	Maths		Break	Handwriting	Spelling	Guided Reading	English		Lunch	Registration/reading	1.25- 2.00 PSHCE		2.00- 2.45 Spanish	2.45-3.30 Music
THURSDAY	Registration Morning work/reading	Timetables	Maths revisit/arithmetic	Maths		Break	Handwriting	Spelling	Guided Reading	English		Lunch	Registration/reading	1.25- 2.10 P.E (Outdoors)		2.10-3.00 Science	KeyStage Assembly – Alternate weeks
FRIDAY	Registration Morning work/reading	Celebration Assembly	Timetables	Maths revisit/arithmetic	Maths		Break	Handwriting	Spelling	Guided Reading	English		Lunch	Registration/reading	ICT		RE



Home learning

Year 3

1.5 hours per week

Daily reading

Spelling practice

Maths linked to classroom learning & Tables / Number facts practice

Activities set on Dojo on a Thursday and completed by Monday

Topic work: Some examples of activities will be sent home at the beginning of each half term and children can choose any of these activities or come up with a similar project of their own.



Home learning

Meridian Primary School.		
Homework will be sent home on a Thursday and returned the next Monday. Homework will consist of a weekly Maths task that consolidates what has been taught in school, weekly spellings and a half-termly project homework linked to our Topic. Choose one of the project activities from the menu below to complete this term. Hand it in once you have completed it. Remember to take pride in your learning and the work you produce. Don't forget to also practise your reading, times tables and number facts regularly!		
Birch Class Homework Menu		
Autumn 1		
1. Times tables (Complete weekly) Practise your multiplication and division facts and try to improve your ability to recall these quickly. Use the websites below to help you. Use www.topmarks/timestables Purple Mash  or www.mathsframemultiplicationtablescheck Adjust the difficulty by selecting the tables you know so far and test your knowledge. Keep working hard on learning your tables and include more of the tables as you know them. or Times Tables Rock Stars 	2. Literacy Read the 'Mountain Animal' riddle below. Choose a mountain animal and create your own riddle for the mountain animal you have chosen. You could use this website to help you research the mountain animal you have chosen: https://www.activewild.com/mountain-animals/ I am sometimes called 'ghosts of the mountains.' I can mew, growl and puff but I can't roar. My wide nose warms cold air before it enters my lungs. My main prey are the ibex, blue sheep and Himalayan tahr. What animal am I? 	3. Science/DT Make a 'working' model of a volcano. You could make a labelled diagram of your volcano which includes the main features e.g. crater, magma, lava and vent or record a video of it working. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b_gltKtERY  or create shadow puppets and find out how to change the size and shape of their shadows. Can you use your puppets to create your own shadow play?  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqmXAm1Cw3k
4. Art Learn how to draw a mountain scene step by step. Use the link below https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G5I7fBYKN8 	5. Topic Research an animal that lives in the mountains. Find out how it is able to survive there. You can choose how to present your findings. For example, you could make a fact sheet, poster, booklet or a power point presentation.    Use the website below to help you: https://www.activewild.com/mountain-animals/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGLRE_ZP01U	6. Topic https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3fycdm/articles/zb3ywtv Use the link above to find out all about The Alps. Write your own fact file or leaflet full of interesting facts. Alternatively choose a mountain range of your choice to research. Things which you could include – Location of the mountain range (shown on a map), climate, plants and animals, human uses of the mountain range, including cultures of people who live there. 



P.E.

- PE is on **Tuesday (indoor)** and **Thursday (outdoor)**
- Children to come dressed in their kit
- Plain navy or black shorts and house colour t-shirts if warm.
- Plain navy or black jogging bottoms and sweatshirt if cold – no hoodies
- Trainers – plain
- Long hair tied back, earrings, jewellery watches to be removed
- Email required if child is not able to do PE



Therapeutic approach to behaviour

Staff will promote positive and helpful behaviour

We will always try to understand what a child's behaviour might be communicating

We have a consistent approach to managing situations and responding to incidents, using the same language and techniques. We will use consistent scripts and routines and positive phrasing

We will focus on preventative strategies and de-escalating incidents, rather than reacting to them

We use a restorative approach - teachers and children will work together to rebuild relationships and repair any harm done and we aim to teach children to make the right choices and motivate them to behave positively – we want them to develop internal discipline

Meridian Consequences: See displayed in classroom. Clear and consistent consequences are set out for all levels of behaviour and are shared with children. We are no longer using the diamond approach.

Behaviours will have logical consequences, rather than just punishments

"This has happened, so obviously, this is the consequence".

There will always be some learning and a restorative conversation or task when there is a consequence.

Behaviour policy on website.



Awards

Dojo points:

- Children collect Dojo points for their house team and individually.
- Each term, the winning **house team** will get a non-uniform day
- **Individually**, children can experience a treat at different Dojo point milestones. Treats to be decided by the school council.
Class reward as the class hits 500 points – voted on by the class



Awards

- School values Award for demonstrating the school values of:
Kindness, Respect, Community, Resilience and Curiosity
- Maths Whizz award
- Star Writer award

You are invited to celebrate during a Friday Celebration Assembly if your child is receiving any of the above awards

Other awards celebrated throughout the week:

Play Leader award for positive playground behaviour

Golden Table award for good manners and behaviour in the lunch hall



Communication

- We will always let you know if we have any worries or have any questions.
- A member of the senior leadership team is on the playground every morning and can pass on messages to your child's teacher. These messages can be urgent or non urgent. This facility is for any message.
- Messages can also be passed to breakfast club who pass it to your child's teacher.
- Emails (office@meridian.cambs.sch.uk) and phone – these are also for urgent and non urgent issues. Emails are forwarded to the appropriate person
- If you require a meeting or phone call with a teacher, please email the office to arrange
- Always check emails and Class Dojo – this is where we communicate everything
- Always read the newsletter for updates and dates for the diary

How can you help?



- Everything should be named
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle for use throughout the day in the classroom
- Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform including school shoes (trainers are only for PE days)
- If your child brings a snack, please ensure it is only fruit or veg
- Outdoor learning – Coats & rain coats in school.
- Support us to build children's resilience, independence and stamina.
- Ensure your child attends regularly – try to arrange routine appointments during school holidays and send them into school unless they are really poorly. Children are ok to be in school with light coughs and colds
- Support with home learning
- Keep an eye on channels of communication, especially emails, Dojo and newsletters
- Please do communicate any concerns or worries straight away so we can act on them