

Silver Birch Newsletter Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

Over the coming year, I am looking forward to working with both you and all your children. Commiserations to those of you who are having to put up with me for a second (or even third) year. I can only promise that Mrs Brooks, Mrs Daily-Atkinson, Mrs Edwards and I will do our best to look after Silver Birch and teach them well! With any luck, we will have a year free from disruption, where we are able to focus on making lots of progress. Hopefully, along the way, we will be able to fit a little light-hearted fun too. We aren't quite back to normal yet...but it's not too far away!

Health and hygiene are still at the forefront of our daily routines. Children either wash or sanitise their hands before entering and leaving the classroom. Keeping our work area well-ventilated is still a priority so windows and doors remain wide open. At the moment, the weather is being kind to us but no doubt in the months ahead the temperatures will drop. Wrap up warm and if we need to, we can wear extra layers in the classroom.

I am excited to be once again teaching in the upper juniors. Although we have only been back a week, I know that it is going to be a productive year. The children in Silver Birch are a lovely group. Along with a nice balance of fun personalities, I have seen some excellent learning behaviour and everyone in the class seems to want to try their best. My fingers are crossed that this will continue throughout the year!

Probably the most important message that I would like you to take away from this newsletter is that I believe working together in partnership almost always produces the best outcome for your child/children. Keep me posted on how they are getting on. If there is anything I can do to help, just get in touch and please don't let problems build. Most things can be sorted out through an email or informal chat.

I look forward to meeting and speaking to you all soon but in the meantime, I hope you find this information useful.

Kind regards,
Andrew Smith

Reading

Please try to encourage your child/children to read at home as frequently as possible. This term, other than spellings, it is the only homework which is being set across the school.

All children should now have a new reading book and reading record which should be brought into school every day.

To widen their vocabulary, we are also asking all KS2 children to record three words in their reading records after each session of reading.

Predominantly, these will be unfamiliar words or interesting words with a view to perhaps using them in their written English. Children can exchange their finished reading books on any day of the week.

Our class story is 'Who Let the Gods Out?' which we read every day. Reading comprehension skills will be taught in school on a weekly basis.

Topics

The Great Greeks

We will be at the history, art and culture of Ancient Greece including the Battle of Marathon.

Space

In science, we will be studying our solar system: time, the planets and the history of space travel.

PE

For the first term, outdoor games will be on a **Tuesday** and indoor PE will be on a **Monday**. Children will be getting changed again this year so please could you help them remember to bring the correct kit:
White T shirt/ black shorts (indoor)
Any colour or weather-appropriate clothes + footwear (outdoor)
Children are welcome to leave their kit in the classroom or bring clothes in on the relevant day.

Spellings

Spellings for this term will be uploaded onto Google Classrooms. Please try to learn them at home. We practise most mornings in class too. Tests will take place on a Friday!

Rewards

Shout Out Board

Children seen making great choices in the classroom will be immediately put on the 'SoB'

Silver Stars

Silver Star certificates will be awarded at the end of each week for excellent learning behaviour and those who have gone 'above and beyond'.

Hot Chocolate

Awarded each Friday to someone who has done something a little bit special!