 Dear Birch class parents, carers and children, 

 I hope you have had a fun-filled summer holidays and are ready for an exciting year ahead. This year I will be teaching the children all day everyday except on a Wednesday afternoon when Mrs Richardson will be working with the children. Mr Tanner & I will teach PE together on a Tuesday morning. Reception children will be supported by Ms Cannon for the majority of the week and will be their key person. Ms Steer will also work with Reception on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Pick up and drop off

Children will need to be dropped off from 8:45am at the front door. In the afternoons children now need to be collected from the back playground 3:30pm.

Water bottles/snacks

All children should bring in a clearly named water bottle to school each day. Fruit will be provided at break time, however children can bring in their own healthy snack from home if they wish. Children under 5 can also have free milk at break time.

Show and Tell

Due to timetable constraints we ask that children do not bring in any show and tell items until we have arranged a timetable.

Reading

Alongside many opportunities to read in school, it is important that your child reads to you at home as often as possible. We ask you to aim for a minimum of 5 times a week. We also encourage you to read to your child daily. Children can borrow books from school that are for the purpose of being read to them. I promise your support makes a real positive impact on their progress!

Children reading phonics books will have these changed regularly if and when comments are recorded in the children’s reading records to say the books are finished with. These books need to be read more than once. Please do comment on how many times the book has been read and anything significant you notice about your child’s reading.

Children who are on accelerated reader will change their books as soon as they have taken the comprehension quiz in school. There will be opportunities to do these quizzes 4 to 5 days a week. We ask the children to tell an adult when they need to quiz.

Spellings/key words

Spellings and key words will be tested on a Tuesdays and new lists sent home on this day too.

Homework

Year one children will have a log in for a maths programme called Numbots.

Year 2 children will have a log on for TT rockstars. We ask that they log into these accounts as an when it works for you and your family but please note this does support their maths work in school.

Sometimes you will also receive a slip of paper asking that your child practises our maths topic at home. For example, if we are learning to count in twos we may ask that your child practises this during the week while you are walk to school /in the car/ over tea etc.

Reception and year one children will also have access to Phonics bug books and phonics games with their online account to active learn. This is most useful if children are home poorly for any length of time as I can refresh their reading books and phonics games.

Topics and trips

This year our topics are Amazing Me! (Autumn term), Africa (Spring term) and Roots, Shoots and Moon Boots (Summer term). Please visit our class page on the school website to view a topic web for more information. If you have anything you would like to bring in to support one of our topics, please let us know. We will hopefully link a fun trip in with each of our topics. We look forward to working alongside you and your child this year! If you have any queries, please speak to one of us as soon as possible.

Mrs Potter