Speaking and Listening
The children will be encouraged to develop their confidence and verbal presentation skills through frequent planned opportunities throughout the day. The children will be asked to discuss their work, learning and ideas with partners, in small group situations, as well as with the whole class. They will also be asked to respond to comments made by others in the class.

Reading and Writing
English lessons will focus on the genres of familiar fiction, information reports, myths and legends and understanding writing techniques used. Teaching will encourage the children to enjoy reading starting with Stone Age narrative called Ug. Each week, the class will have a spelling, punctuation and grammar focus. These may be reinforced through homework tasks. In addition to daily English lessons, the children will have daily guided reading sessions.

Number
The children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of the number system by extending their place value skills. Most children will be expected to read, write and work with numbers with 3 or 4 digits. Through the use of Numicon and Base Ten Dienes, the children will deepen their understanding of number and place value.

The children will also be taught how to use formal written method for addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. They will also start to understand fractions including adding and subtracting simple fractions.

The children will further develop their knowledge and understanding of time. They will learn how to tell the time accurately and use this to find time intervals. They will also develop the skills required to calculate the perimeter of simple shapes.

Science
During the first half term, the children will be studying 'Rocks and Soils'. They will be learning about the three main types of rocks: igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. They will investigate the rock cycle, learning about how different rocks are made and used. They will investigate fossils and learn about different types of soil.

After the half term holiday, they will be studying 'Magnets and Forces'. They will investigate how magnets work and the effect of different surfaces on magnetic attraction. They will also learn about friction and gravity.

Computing
This term's computing lessons will focus on the importance of computer safety. The children will discuss appropriate online behaviour. They will also use Espresso Coding to develop their computer programming skills.
**History, RE, Geography and French**

This half term the children will study a History topic called ‘The Stone Age to the Iron Age’. The children will learn how different life was for the people in these time periods and the impacts that it has had on our lives today. We will be learning how to use historical sources to get information. After the half term holiday, the children will embark on a Geography topic where they will learn about the seven continents and oceans. They will also learn how to use maps. During RE lessons this term, the children will learn about birth ceremonies in different religions. They will discover that many faiths share common features and will learn how to compare them. In French the children will be learning how to introduce themselves. They will also learn the names of colours, numbers 1 to 20 and the days of the week. In the second half term they will be learning the names of different animals. They will then construct simple sentences linking together animals, colours and numbers.

**Art, DT and Music**

This half term, the children will be working with pastels and clay in their Art lessons. They will develop the skills necessary to make clay carvings and use the pastels to make cave paintings. After the half term holiday, they will learn to design and make sculptures in DT. They will learn to communicate design ideas through drawings and sketches. The aim is to design different Greek gods and make charaters from different myths and legends. In Music, the children will be learning about pitch and rythem. They will also be learning about a variety of songs and listening to different styles of music.

**PE**

Birch class will have PE on a Thursday. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school every week (white T-shirt, black shorts and plimsoles). They will be sent home at half term to be washed.

The children will be doing gymnastics for the first half term, creating sequences linked to the theme of symmetry/asymmetry. They will then transfer these sequences onto apparatus. In the second half term they will be doing dance, working on warm up phrases and then creating phrases based on a traditional African folk tale.

**Contact Information**

Remember to update your contact information with the office to ensure you get our useful updates via texts (if you have changed your number).

**Additional Information**

**Homework expectations:** The children will benefit from short, daily reading session at home. Parents are asked to discuss their child's book with them and children/parents to evidence this via the online reading tracker on DB primary. Children should also practise their times tables regularly so that they are able to recall multiplication and division facts instantly. Additional homework may be given out, if it will benefit the children's learning and understanding. This will be set on Fridays and needs to be returned on **Wednesdays**.

**Useful websites:**
- www.primaryresources.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.mathszone.co.uk
- www.topmarks.co.uk

**Possible family visits:**
- The Natural History Museum (free admission)
- The Science Museum (free admission)

**Forthcoming events:**
Please see the school website