

Birkrigg – Spring 1

Happy 2026! Welcome back to school and a new term. We have some new equipment in our outdoor area, so we are looking forward to the children being able to use it!

Our topic this half term is **Water**.

Literacy

We will continue to have our Phonics sessions every morning where the children are learning the letter sounds, including how two letters make one sound, how to blend them to read words and how to write their letters correctly. We will read some story books and introduce information books this half term. Our story books will include 'One Snowy Night' by Nick Butterworth and The Lighthouse Keeper's stories. We will look at information books relating to the sea and the animals that live in the sea, particularly whales. We will practise our writing with activities linked to these texts including writing animal facts and learning how to write instructions.

Maths

We are extending our number work up to number 8. We are going to be doing lots of work on number bonds, pairs of numbers that can be added together to make another number and combining 2 groups of numbers. We do of course take every opportunity to count larger groups of objects as well – how many children in our class today, etc. We will also investigate mass and capacity, and towards the end of the half term, length.

Understanding the World

To begin our half term, we are going to think about Winter and the changes we might see in our local environment during this season. We will look at changing states of matter and investigate ice melting. We will carry out some research on animals that live in the sea and have a go at drawing them and adding labels to our drawings.

We will talk about how we use water in our everyday lives, including thinking about washing in the past. We will use 'Mrs Lather's Laundry' as a starting point to talk about differences between then and now. We will think about where we can find water in both our local environment and in our world. Through our Lighthouse Keeper's stories, we are going to think about some of the dangers of water and how lighthouses have changed over the years.

RE

Our topic this half term is 'Stories Jesus told'. We will explore some of the parables including The Good Samaritan, The Lost Sheep, The Wise Man and the Foolish Man and The Lost Coin to think about the messages that Jesus wanted people to understand. We will use drama and art to tell the stories.

PSHE

Our unit is called Living in the Wider World, and we are going to talk about the people who help us in our local community. Towards the end of the half term, we will think about what makes a healthy packed lunch linked to a story we read in Literacy.

Music

This half term the unit is called 'Everyone'. We will be learning to sing the rhymes and using the percussion instruments to play along with the songs.

Expressive Arts and Design

Linked to our water topic, we are going to use watery washes in our artwork, experimenting with painting over wax crayon marks. We will make a water themed collage and listen to the sounds of water. We will also make our own lighthouses using junk modelling materials.

Computing

As well as new activities on Mini-Mash linked to our new topic of 'water', we hope to provide opportunities for children to use the Bee-Bots, small robotic devices that can be used to teach children the basics of programming.

PE

We will continue to have two hall times, this half term on a Monday and a Thursday. We will continue with some gymnastics, often using the large apparatus, and a dance unit. In this unit children will develop their expressive movement through the topic of 'everyday life'.

As usual, weather permitting, we also hope to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and go on to the school field when we can.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. A pair of wellies would also be very useful for wet weather.

We will continue to change reading books twice a week. The children will bring their new books home on a Monday and a Thursday. **Please comment in your child's reading journal if you have heard your child read.** We also listen to the children read in the classroom three times weekly as part of our reading practice sessions.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to us.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson