FLOURISH FEDERATION

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Carol Jeary

Friday 4th September 2026

Birch Class (Year 4) Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Birch Class (Year 4)! We hope you have had a lovely summer and are ready for a brand new year. Mrs Gkikopoulos will teach the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Mrs Niven will teach on Thursdays and Fridays. We are fortunate to have Mrs Barker as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Lawrence will also work with the class at times each week. We are so looking forward to working with you all - children and families.

Please can we remind you that all uniforms must be named, especially those items that are removed regularly e.g. jumpers and cardigans. Each day, the children should bring into school: a named coat and a named **water** bottle. We ask that drinks bottles only contain water and these can be topped up in the classroom when needed. Children also need to bring their reading book each day. The children may also bring a **healthy** snack to school for breaktime and this should be fruit or vegetable based.

PE

We will be having PE on **Wednesday** and children should come into school wearing their school PE kits ***(White t-shirt, blue or black shorts / jogging bottoms, navy PE hoody / jumper and trainers).*** Please ensure jewellery is removed and long hair tied up. No football t-shirts or other sporting kits should be worn. This term, we will also be **swimming** on **Fridays** starting on Friday 18th September. A swimming letter with further details will follow.

Homework

Reading for 15 mins a day is the most important part of children's homework. We will be encouraging children to develop stamina for reading, so we do expect that children will try their very best to finish a book they start reading. We will be completing activities based on their reading books during school time, so all children are expected to have a reading book and to bring it into school every day. Children will also be set **spellings** each week. These will be on a 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' worksheet and will need to be completed at home and returned to school each Thursday, ready for their test. There will be some optional spelling games and activities set on the 'Spelling Shed' section of Ed-shed each week. It is especially important to practise on **Times Table Rockstars** (TTRS) regularly to keep times table speed up; this will help the children with their maths work and will also help them prepare for their statutory 'Multiplication Tables Check' at the end of this year. Log-ins for Ed-shed and TTRS will be sent home very soon.

Just one Norfolk

A reminder that 'Just One Norfolk' contains a wide range of information and support for families ranging from healthy eating, creating sleep routines, child development, family support, family break up and emotional needs to name but a few. https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/

With best wishes,
Mrs Gkikopoulos and Mrs Niven

Year 4 Curriculum Map

Autumn Term 2026

English

Year 4 will start the year by recapping key objectives from year 3 in spelling, grammar, punctuation and reading skills. This is an important step in consolidating and securing important skills to prepare them for the year 4 curriculum.

We will then commence our English curriculum by reading the story 'The Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirley Climo Children will then write their own take on the traditional tale following the Jane Considine sentence stacking technique.



We will also be using this story, amongst others, in our regular 'Book Talk' sessions, using the Jane Considine Reading Rainbow to improve reading skills. Later in the term, be writing instructions/explanations for 'wanna-be' embalmers!

Mathematics

This term we will learn to order and compare numbers beyond 1000 and to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will learn formal methods for addition and subtraction and use them to solve problems. After half term, we will learn to find and compare the area of shapes before finishing the term with a unit on multiplication and division.

Science

In our first unit,'Living things and their habitats', we will look at how living things can be grouped and explore classification keys. We will learn that environments can change over time and that humans can have an impact on their environment.
Vocabulary: classification, key, environment, habitat, microhabitat, impact, hibernate

Our second science unit will be 'Teeth, Eating & Digestion'. We will learn about the different types of teeth humans and animals have and why we have different types. We will investigate tooth decay and how to prevent it and will look at how our food is processed by our digestive system.
Vocabulary: Digestive system, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small/ large intestine

Design Technology

We will begin with a unit on textiles, learning to thread needles, tie knots and sew basic stitches. We will use our learning to design and make a functional purse or pencil case. Will will then begin a Cooking and Nutrition unit where we will compare different types of pizzas, and explore possible pizza toppings, before designing and making our own healthy pizzas.
Vocabulary: functionality, running stitch, fabric, needles, drawstring, seam allowance, nutrition, mixing, kneading, slicing, presentation, taste, texture

French

Je Me Presente We will learn to introduce ourselves in French, saying our names, ages and where we live in full sentences. We will also learn the numbers 0-20.
Vocabulary: je m'appelle..., où habites-tu?, j'ai dix ans, comment tu t'appelles?, je suis anglais, quel âge as-tu? j'habite à Norfolk.
La Famille We will describe different members of our family in French. We will learn the concept of the possessive adjectives Mon, Ma and Mes and learn numbers to 100.
Vocabulary: la mère, le père, le frère, la sœur, as-tu des frères et sœurs?

Flourish lessons (PSHE)

To start, our unit is 'Being Me in My World'. We will investigate how our own actions affect the class team and learn our places as valuable citizens in the wider school community. We will consider people's feelings and how to empathise with them and study the benefits of democracy. During the second half of term, we will be 'Celebrating Difference', and will look at how to include others in our work and play. We will investigate the effect of using kind words and giving compliments. **Vocabulary:** citizen, community, democracy, empathy, assumption, friend, judgement, unique

History

Year 4 will be exploring ancient Egypt this term. We will outline the chronology of Egyptian civilisation, and look at the different roles people played in Egyptian society. We'll also be using artefacts to investigate everyday life, exploring the ritual of mummification, and then we'll learn about the discovery of Tutankhamun.
Vocabulary: BC/AD, evidence, ancient, archaeology, civilisation, afterlife, God, Goddess, mummification, Pharaoh, ritual, vizier, Scribe, slave, tomb, deity, ritual, artefact, evidence, archaeology,

Geography

Children will be exploring the geography of Egypt and the Nile. We will be locating and mapping both physical and human features (modern and ancient) and learning about the important role that the Nile river plays in life in Egypt.

Vocabulary: country, continent, River Nile, delta, transport, irrigation, Aswan Dam, trading, hydro-electric power, reservoir, distributaries, sediment,

Music

To start, we will study some of the iconic music styles of the 1970s, with a particular focus on the song Mamma Mia by Abba. We will look at the structure of different songs and learn to sing our own version of Mamma Mia. Next we will move onto a performance, playing tuned percussion where we will be introduced to notated music.

Vocabulary: Keyboard, electric guitar, bass, drums, improvise, compose, melody, pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture, structure, melody

Religious Education

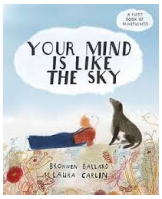
Throughout this term, we look at the question: How do religious groups contribute to society? This unit looks in depth at the work of Christians and Hindus in our local area and in wider society.

We will have our first of 3 Christianity based RE days centred around the question 'What is the trinity?'

Vocabulary: Christian, Compassion, Contribution, Dharma, Hindu, Impact, Seva, Society

Art

This term, we will be learning to tell stories through drawing. We will explore the use of line, shape, colour and composition to develop evocative and characterful imagery, inspired by the illustrations by artists Laura Carlin and Shaun Tan. We will then create our own illustrated versions of a famous tale.



Vocabulary: illustration, graphic novels, line, shape, colour composition, imagery, sequence, drawing, chalk pastels, charcoal, graphite

Computing

We will use Google Classroom, learn how to send emails and revise what we have to do to keep ourselves safe online. We will learn to create slide presentations incorporating animations. We will use coding to draw pictures and learn to debug our code. **Vocabulary:** email, compose, recipient, attach, transition/ animation, algorithm, program.

PE

In Autumn 1 we will be focusing on fitness and Regular physical activity can do so many wonderful things to your overall health. **Vocabulary:** agility, coordination, stamina.
In Autumn 2, we will be learning all about rugby! **Vocabulary:** Dodge, pass, invasion, possession

We will also have weekly swimming lessons throughout the whole Autumn term.