

NEWSLETTER

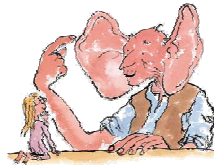
for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed a well earned rest. Many thanks again for all your kind gifts, cards and comments. The children had a fantastic first term of the year and all did an excellent job in our Christmas production of 'The Snowman'. This term will be filled with hard work, exciting projects and the development of key skills such as independence which now becomes a focus as routines and expectations are embedded. Please keep checking the school website and Green Class' Learning Zone page to keep up to date with the latest news and be part of children's out of school learning.

Topic

Our Roald Dahl topic certainly started with a bang as we travelled to Derby to see 'The BFG'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school. During the topic our project will be to create our own books for a class library. We will also create bookmarks for our books in our textiles work and we will become scientists exploring electricity. Children will learn about electrical circuits and create a product which solves a problem for a Roald Dahl character e.g. 'Matilda wants to read our books at night what could help her?' The children could make a type of torch or lamp using batteries, bulbs and LEDs.



Our second topic of the half term is 'The Circus'. Children will learn a series of circus skills in an introductory day and will work towards playing a part at Blackwell's Big top. We will work on our musical skills to perform at our circus and explore the collage technique in our art lessons to create circus inspired art and posters to advertise our performance.



Literacy

Green Class will be starting the half term by looking at stories written by the same author which will of course be Roald Dahl. We will be exploring a range of his texts including 'The Magic Finger' and 'The Enormous Crocodile'. We will look at Roald Dahl's style including how he created characters, imaginary worlds and even his own words. We will develop our skills of story writing starting with story telling and will create our own stories for a class library. During our circus topic we will focus on writing riddles about circus acts and animals.



Throughout the term there will be a large focus on handwriting. Children will work on making writing joined, smaller, of a constant size and formed correctly. Any writing you do at home will greatly benefit children whether it's a shopping list or Christmas present thank you letters! Our writing policy and an example of the cursive script are available from myself or Mrs Moss should you require one.

Numeracy

Green Class is starting the half term by securing our calculation skills and developing the use of number lines. We will be drawing our own number lines making jumps of 1s, 10s and bridging to the nearest 10. We will also work upon movement, position and direction using key vocabulary such as clockwise and anticlockwise, whole and half turns and directing a series of programmable robots along a chosen pathway.



Mental starters will focus on number bonds, halves, doubles, near doubles, ordinal numbers, mental addition of a series of small numbers, place value of numbers to 100 and applying number facts to problems including those involving money or measures.

Bits and Pieces

* Forest School will continue across the school and Green Class will go on Wednesday afternoons (starting 11th January) Please send children in jogging bottoms and warm socks on Wednesdays.

*As we go out in all weathers please make sure children have a waterproof coat in school at all times.

*During the morning children have a water and snack break. Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school empty each day. If you wish your child to have a healthy morning snack they must either be bought from our school tuck shop or brought in from home. We request that snacks are not chocolate or biscuits. Children's free fruit entitlement is given to them during afternoon break.

* As we are continually teaching our children to become more independent can you support your children with reminding them to ensure they go home with the following things:

- Water bottle and lunchbox
- Letters (please check our website regularly to ensure you receive all necessary information as I know some letters get lost in transit!)
- Jumpers, fleeces, hats
- Homework book (Y2s)
- Reading book that they have changed when necessary

We will endeavour to remind them also but it is always worth a check at the end of the day!

Should there be anything you are worried about or wish to discuss further, I am usually available to speak with you informally at 3.15pm each day.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Sims, Mrs. Cripps and Miss Aubury

Homework

In Green Class the children have home reading books to practise their reading. These are changed by the children themselves when they arrive in the morning. Please help by reminding your child if they need to change their book or keep it for another night.

Please continue to read as often as possible with your child at home. Regular reading practise makes a **significant** impact on your child's progress.



To consolidate the learning taking place within the classroom Year 2 children receive a piece of numeracy homework each Friday to be completed at home in their books and returned by the following Tuesday.

Homework should be completed in pencil and handed in when complete.