

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back and a Happy New Year!** 2011 ended in style, which I am sure you'd agree, with our fantastic performances of The Snowman which were due to the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the children. We look forward to the New Year with exciting topics, projects and learning planned as we continue to support the children in becoming independent learners and developing skills for life.

### TOPIC

'Roald Dahl' is our new topic to start 2012 and the children will be planning their own learning and skills needed to make their own BFG story book and as a class create a Roald Dahl library from which they will be able to borrow and share books.



The children will listen to and appraise music with fantastical elements and will explore, choose, combine and organise musical ideas to create music to accompany their stories.

Through Art the children will consolidate and develop drawing skills to create pictures for their books. They will explore mark making, creating different tones and using shading for effect.

Throughout the project the children will continue to work with new learning partners where they are encouraged to develop communication and team work skills, through reasoning and dialogue opportunities.

The children will have the opportunity to use their word processing and graphic skills during their project but in addition, and separate to their project work, they will be introduced to spreadsheets, linked to our Year 4 job scheme and banking system.

### BITS AND PIECES

Forest School sessions will continue to take place on Friday mornings. On those days children can come to school in tracksuit bottoms, extra layers with wellies and thick socks.

Please ensure your child brings their water bottle to school with them **everyday**. It should come to school empty and then filled up in school to avoid any leakages in book bags.

If there is anything you are worrying about please come and speak to me at the end of the school day. I am usually available to speak informally after 3.15p.m. Thank you.

**Miss Townsend and Mrs Moran**

### LITERACY

During Literacy the children will be retelling and writing stories based on The BFG. Sentence level work will focus on the use of dialogue, better words for said and adverbs. We will also be working on using a range of punctuation and using different ways to start our sentences to develop our writing further. All children continue to work towards their personal writing targets. Phonics will focus on a range of long vowel phonemes such as ew and other spelling conventions such as plurals and contracted words i.e. we've.

### NUMERACY

Over the next few months the children will be extending their understanding of fractions, position, direction and data handling. Problem solving will be on providing opportunities for children to apply skills learned. Mental starters will focus on the 8 times tables, using place value to  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ , double and halve large numbers mentally and they will be introduced to factors, common factors and products.

### TAG RUGBY

Blue Class is lucky to be able to receive some rugby training from a local rugby coach. This will take place during our Monday afternoon P.E. sessions. Lessons will take place on the field so your child will need a warm **tracksuit** and **old trainers** (they will get muddy!). Please send a carrier bag into school for muddy trainers and clothes **every Monday**. Thank you.



### Y4 JOB SCHEME

This exciting scheme will be starting over the next half term. A letter will be coming home soon explaining more about it!