

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back and a Happy New Year! We hope you all had a good Christmas holiday, albeit different from normal, and are well rested and ready and raring to go for the new term. The children had a very successful first term and are familiar with routines and expectations and are now ready to be challenged further to develop their academic skills, independence and skills for life.

What a surprise it was discovering that not everyone was returning to the school site for the start of term! Luckily, the planned learning is able to take place at home and at school and we look forward to sharing the learning from all of the children.

This week has seen the start of our new topic, 'Music to our Ears' and you enjoyed your dilemma day on Monday as we introduced Peer Gynt and the music 'Hall of the mountain King' as inspiration for our new learning.

TOPIC

'Music to our Ears', as our new topic, is where  the children will be making their own puppet theatres and will perform (virtually) a musical tale to the rest of the school. The children will be developing their team work and co-operation skills during this project in school by working in small groups and children at home will enjoy working with family on this.

Art and Science are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Art, the focus will be painting. Children will explore the works of two famous artists – Georgia O'Keeffe and J.M.W. Turner. They will look at their particular styles and techniques and try to create their own artworks mirroring their styles. Children will use their newly developed skills to paint creative and effective backdrops for their puppet theatres.

In Science lessons, children will take inspiration from famous scientists in the past, using their stories to learn more about what makes a good scientist. Then they will explore changes in states of matter, defining solids, liquids and gases and planning a fair test to explore melting points. They will use their new knowledge to help understand how the water cycle works.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

JOB SCHEME

During a normal January, the children would have been embarking on their Job scheme. Wait for more news as the Blue Class team decides on the best approach to this. It may be waiting until you all return to school or we may decide that you are ready to take on home 'jobs'. Whatever we decide, there will be time for this before you leave Year 4!

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the support from home working on their targets in Reading, Writing and Maths. It is making a big difference and is helping the children to catch up on some of the missed learning as a result of the national lockdown last year. Please continue to work on the targets from their reports alongside daily reading and times table practice. This half term we are moving onto the 11 and 6 times tables.



For general enquiries email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk and for curriculum email blueclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk We look forward to working with you all at home or school this half term.

Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

LITERACY

The Norwegian folktale, 'White Bear King Valemon' is the main text we will be using to support their reading and writing skills. When reading, they will be given opportunities to predict, summarise, infer and discuss



words and phrases that the author uses to capture the reader's interest and imagination and to create excitement, curiosity and suspense. Their reading will then support their writing skills where they will experiment with their own words and phrases to capture the reader's interest. Learning how to correctly punctuate dialogue will be a focus alongside developing their sentence writing skills further by using conjunctions to extend and structure sentences in different ways. E.g. *He crept out of the room when no one was looking. When no one was looking, he crept out of the room.*

In Spelling, the children will be taught how to use spelling patterns such as 'ou' in words such as double, country..., explore homophones such as groan/grown, reign/rein/rain... and continue to learn how to use apostrophes for possession.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will continue to develop their understanding of subtraction. They will use concrete and pictorial representations to subtract 4-digit numbers before moving on to abstract column subtraction. Alongside this, they will also recognise the importance of finding the difference if the two numbers are close together and not to rely on column subtraction if this is not the most efficient method. Following this, problem solving will be the focus where the children will continue to develop their understanding and use of bar modelling. This is a successful approach designed in Singapore to support the children's understanding and ability to solve word problems something that nationally and globally is a challenge for many children. Length including area and perimeter will also be taught this half term. (We will provide some work to collect for children at home). Mental maths will focus on the 11 and 6 times tables, doubles and halves to 100 and 500 (multiples of 100), counting on and back through zero (including negative numbers), recognising multiples and adding and subtracting any 2 2-digit numbers using efficient methods (ask your child to tell you about RAPA CODA NUMBO!).

Take a look back at last half term...



artwork inspired by the C.S. Lewis classic 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'



using concrete apparatus to help understand column addition



tucking into our delicious Christmas dinner



having lots of fun learning about the digestive system



printing in Art



and now we're off to Norway!