

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term.** We hope you all had a good rest over the holiday and enjoyed some family time. Even though it wasn't quite the half term we had hoped for, we are so proud of all of the children in Blue Class. Those who are learning in school have adapted to new routines and are working hard. For those families at home, we thank you so much for your great resilience and the amazing effort you are putting into the home learning when we know how challenging this is. The standard of daily work sent in and the way the children are able to talk about their learning during our weekly telephone calls shows they are making continued progress. In addition, the experiences they are having through this home learning will be teaching them important life skills such as independence, patience, problem solving... that will stand them in good stead as they get older. We very much look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school soon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February!

### TOPIC

The fascinating history of the 'Native Americans' is our new topic. The children's learning will form this year's class assembly that will be shared with families virtually this year.



On the first day back, the children developed their thinking and reasoning skills by solving a dilemma linked to the Native American 'Trail of Tears'. Sharing ideas, reasoning, considering different viewpoints and making decisions all help develop strong learning behaviours and creative thinking alongside learning about historical events.

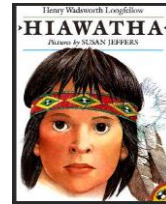
History and DT are the main subjects taught during this topic. All History learning will be guided by this question: *Family was more important to Native Americans in the past than it is to us today. Do you challenge or agree with this statement?* Children will learn to interpret primary and secondary sources to develop their chronological understanding, develop their understanding of events and their consequences and also compare time periods.

In DT lessons, children will be creating a Native American style outfit for a soft toy. After exploring existing designs, children will design their own and then develop the skills needed to create it – the use of templates and different sewing stitches in particular. After creating their outfits, they will evaluate against the design criteria.

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.

### LITERACY

During this topic, the children will be reading and writing a range of genres including poetry, stories and non-fiction texts.



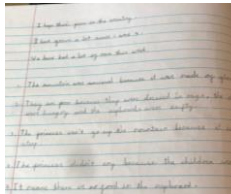
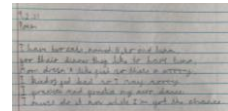
When reading, they will be given opportunities to share opinions, ask questions, spot patterns in language, infer and discuss words and phrases that the authors use to capture the reader's interest and imagination. As a school, we continually identify and discuss language to develop their vocabulary in their speech and writing.

Writing is a skill that requires a lot of resilience and has been an area of challenge nationally during lockdown. To support this, the children will be given opportunities to write little and often to further develop their writing skills and stamina. The application of good language will be modelled alongside writing sentences with a variety of structures.

In Spelling, the children will be taught how to use the prefixes *il-*, *in-*, *-im* and *-ir* and how they change the meaning of root words, words spelt with 'ei', 'eigh' and 'ey' and homophones.

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.

Take a look back at some super learning from last half term...



- The mountain is made of glass.
- I think that the mountain is good because she is wearing rugged clothes.
- She will be unable to catch the bear because she was working and the bear is at the house of the Native American warriors.
- She was looking over to the children and wanted to care for them.
- To make clothes.
- General, combined, mixed.
- She might have been scared of how far up she was and how far up she has to go.
- The princess had the ribbon and a bear.

### JOB SCHEME

Those children who wanted to be considered for a Year 4 job have requested specific application forms and had the task of completing them over the holiday and returning them to school this week. If successful, they will receive notification soon and work will commence this half term. It will be lovely to see children both at home and at school taking on more responsibility and learning a little bit about what working life is like, preparing them for adulthood.



### HOMEWORK

Thank you so much for the support from home working on their targets. For children both at school and at home, please ensure your child is reading every day and practising their times tables. Knowing these facts fluently is a key skill that underpins all maths in Year 5 and 6. Even though all government testing has been cancelled this year, all being well, we plan on using a previous test of the Year 4 Times Table check in the Summer Term as a way of tracking progress and attainment.



As parents remain unable to wait on the playground at the moment, if you want to have a chat with us, please email [office@...](mailto:office@...) and we will arrange to give you a call and for those at home please use [blueclass@...](mailto:blueclass@...) and the Waiting Room. Thank you. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the main focus will be multiplication and division. They will develop their understanding of place value by multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. They will develop efficient mental methods to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25 and use formal written methods for more complex calculations. Concrete apparatus and pictorial methods will be used to secure their understanding before moving on to abstract methods. Application of these skills will be through solving word problems when bar modelling will again be used to support their problem solving skills. Length including area and perimeter will also be taught this half term.

Mental maths will focus on: reading/writing numbers to 10,000+; rounding; securing their accuracy of halving even numbers in the 30s, 50s, 70s, 90s; doubling and halving greater numbers using place value knowledge i.e. double 3,700; counting in 25s and 50s; 7 and 9 times tables and; continuing to develop their fluency and accuracy when adding and subtracting 2 2-digit numbers mentally involving crossing the 10s i.e.  $54 + 17$  and  $72 - 25$ .