

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



**Welcome back.** We are now halfway through the year (and your Purple Class children are halfway through the school)! What a year it has been! I hope you all had a good half term and that your children are rested and ready to go. It is with sincere gratitude that I say thank you for all the support you have shown your children over the last half term. The work children are producing, the resilience they have shown and how happy they are is a real testament to the Purple Class families. I continue to be so proud of them and whatever the next chapter throws at us, we will do it as a team. We have two topics this half term which are Native Americans and Easter.

### TOPIC

This term our topic lessons are mainly around the subject areas of history and DT. In history children will go way back in time to learn all about the original Native Americans. We will develop many historical skills as we analyse and interpret sources to learn more about the past. What was it like to live the life of a Native American thousands of years ago? Children will learn about daily life, who was who and also about beliefs long ago, far away.

In DT, we will be using Mrs Moran's endless sewing skills to help us create some traditional Native American wristbands with sewn tribal patterns. We will use different stitches to pattern our wristbands and explore different ways of joining materials to add embellishments and join the binca into a wristband shape. All materials will be provided by us for children at home and at school. (More information will follow.)

In PE we are going to create a traditional Native American dance and learn a new Wake and Shake. All of our learning will build up to a celebration day where we will sing, dance and share our learning with other classes on Zoom wearing our new accessories from our DT lessons.

Our second topic of the half term will be 'Easter'. Children will focus on Christian beliefs in RE.



Music lessons will develop singing, composition and performing skills, whilst in computing lessons we will be developing coding skills. PSHE and Philosophy for Children will continue to be taught weekly.

### EXTRAS

- Please make sure your child has a named water bottle and a healthy snack in school each day. Free fruit is delivered for children's afternoon snack.
- Forest School remains a Monday for all of Purple Class.
- PE will take place on a Tuesday and is always outdoors. Please can children have jogging bottoms and trainers in school. If children wear tights to school, please put some socks into PE bags.
- There will be no national testing this year (SATS). A teacher assessment will be reported to you in the summer.
- Miss Coyle our student teacher from our Teaching School remains with us for this half term.

### READING

The ability to read opens the world! Reading practise is key in securing children's fluency, language development and imagination. Please do try to hear children read at home as much as you can, preferably daily, as it does make a real difference. Use any books you have at home for story times and those sent home every Monday.

### English

We are fully aware as a school that writing is the main area where we need to plug any gaps from the national lockdowns. This is likely to be a national issue and we know it has been the subject of many battles of wills at home. As staff, we have discussed this at length and the conclusion we arrive at is just get them writing! To address this, all children have a new journal in school to write anything they want e.g. thoughts, feelings, experiences, jokes or even poems. These will hopefully encourage children to write more in those times outside of lessons such as when they first arrive at school. We are also going to have a little and often approach to learning in English writing lessons and explore many genres rather than leading up to one big write. For example, our learning will be focused on the text 'The Garden' by Dyan Sheldon and Gary Blythe but children may write a letter, a diary entry, an advert or a character description in addition to part of a story. Children need to be secure with using capital letters and full stops then move onto more sophisticated features like adjectives and conjunctions. (and, but, so, or)

We are also going to have a focus on handwriting and spelling. Please support us with this by practising the spelling of Year 2 keywords at home, forming letters correctly according to Mrs Moss's YouTube videos and ensuring children write letters in proportional size i.e. capital letters are taller than other letters and the tall letters (l,k,b,t,h) are taller than letters such as e. Later in our Easter topic, we will have a springtime poetry focus.



### Maths

In Maths this term, a lot of our learning is applying already taught skills in different contexts.

We will apply our addition and subtraction calculation methods whilst solving problems using a bar model. Further calculation will be multiplication and division with both 'one step' and 'multiple step' problems as appropriate.

The national expectation for year 2 is that children can recall all multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Children will take the national tables test when they are in year 4, so it really makes sense for them to secure tables knowledge year on year.

The other area of maths that requires instant recall is halves (of even numbers) and doubles, up to double 20 (e.g. double 17, halve 34). Flash cards are an excellent tool, but one of our favourites in Purple Class is 'Hit the Button'. Search online for the website or app.

The half term will start with measures. Children will use tools to measure height, length and temperature and learn to read scales and centimetres and degrees.

