

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Red Class



Every day, we're a step closer to being together again. Thank you for your patience, resilience and support during these challenging times. Over the next two weeks, I will continue to co-ordinate home and school learning using phone calls and emails to offer support. Planned sessions will balance focused activities, such as handwriting formation, with play-based learning, including role play and small world storytelling. Mrs Moss will continue to keep us united through her daily posts on ParentApp and Zoom reading and assemblies will continue for our 'at home' superheroes. I will also carefully plan transition for 8<sup>th</sup> March alongside Mrs Moss and Miss Townsend. We start this half term with our new topic, 'Native Americans' where we'll be working towards a festival of learning. We'll complete the term with 'Easter'.

### Learning in Red Class from last half term...



### HANDWRITING

Handwriting is one of the trickier elements of our learning. It takes a lot of time and patience. In Red Class, we learn how to form each letter correctly by starting from the line. The children learn how to join letters in Year 1. Here are a few top tips to remember:

1. Write little and often e.g. 10 minutes every day.
2. Check your child's tripod grip. If your child is finding this tricky, use 'chunky' writing tools e.g. thick wax crayons and chalk.
3. Work 'big' on the floor, easel or table.
4. Use a range of sensory activities and media e.g. flour, shaving foam, chalk, spray bottle, bath and window pens.
5. Talk through the letter e.g. 'Start on the line, round, back and lead out'.
6. Follow handwriting with an activity of your child's choice. 'Handwriting now, outside play next.'

Tripod Grip



Best wishes,  
Mrs Webb and the Red Class Team xxx  
[redclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:redclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk)  
Zoom Room: 9.30am-12pm daily

### WHAT WILL WE BE LEARNING?

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- \*Naming and working toward goals.
- \*Exploring feelings and attitudes to achieve goals.

#### Communication and Language/Literacy

- \*Recap tricky letters and sounds from last half term e.g. **v** (van), **ai** (rain) and **oo** (look or moon).
- \*Use phonic knowledge to read and write phrases and simple sentences.
- \*Share and retell 'Totem Tale'.
- \*Explore tier 2 vocabulary linked to movement e.g. **strut**, **tumble**, **swoop** and **dart**

**KEYWORDS:** **my, you, her, they, all, are.**

#### Mathematics

- \*Read, make and understand numbers to 20.
- \*Explore addition and subtraction using objects and number stories and develop specific vocabulary e.g. 'sum' or 'total' for the answer in addition or 'difference' for the answer in subtraction.
- \*Name, describe and create patterns with 2D shapes.

#### Physical Development

- \*Recreate 'Totem Tale' through dance.
- \*Create motifs linked to movement vocabulary.
- \*Explore speed, pathways and levels in dance.
- \*Develop handwriting patterns and formation e.g. **r, n, m**

**Wake and Shake - 'Faith' by Mrs Hampton**

#### Understanding the World

- \*Use stories and pictures to ask and answer questions about the past.
- \*Find out about the lives of people from the past.

#### Expressive Arts and Design

- \*Continue to explore pulse, rhythm and pitch during singing.
- \*Plan, make and evaluate a Native American headdress.