

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



A big warm welcome back to everyone! We are delighted that all of the children are able to return to school full time as one Blue Class bubble for the start of this new academic year where there will be many exciting learning opportunities for your child. Miss Townsend will be teaching your child every morning and Miss Kuriger every afternoon. Mrs Marks and Miss Burgess will also be working in Blue Class and, as a team, we will work to ensure that your child is happy, works hard and fulfils their academic potential in a classroom where learning behaviours and code of conduct are continually developed and supported too. Year 4 is often seen as a very exciting year group to be part of with special trips (Malvern) and roles in school (Year 4 job scheme), all of which we will endeavour to enable the children to experience. We look forward to a very happy and successful year ahead. Let's see how it will all begin...

TOPIC

We kick start the year with a fascinating history topic



– Through the Ages. We will delve into the past and investigate key features of the Bronze and Iron Ages. The question of focus throughout the topic is: *'How useful are prehistoric burials in telling us about changes in Britain's past?'*. Learning will culminate in the children generating their own answer at the end of topic, with justified reasons and historical evidence.

D.T. and Art are the other main subjects taught during this topic. The focus is on drawing skills during Art lessons this half term, where children will firstly explore patterns in natural objects and then focus on how linear patterns are used in the work of British artist John Brunson. Children will replicate his style in their own piece of artwork showing the Bronze or Iron Age. D.T. focuses on the use of mechanisms to create a moving model. This will take skill and patience! The learning during this topic will be shared with you for you to enjoy via our virtual open evening on ParentApp on **Wednesday 30th September**.

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

Stig of the Dump by Clive King will be the text of focus during this topic. This classic tale will be used to inspire and engage the children whilst developing their language, reading and writing skills. They will be given opportunities to ask questions about the text, make predictions and summarise what they read, key Year 4 reading skills. Focusing on the rich language and ideas Clive King uses to capture the reader's interest will develop their use of vocabulary and creativity when writing.



The children will be introduced to their individual writing target and regular handwriting sessions will help them to develop their cursive handwriting so that they become fluent writers. In Spelling sessions, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding suffixes –ing, –er, –en, –ed, –ment, –less, –ful, –ness and ly and will practise reading and spelling the following tricky words: *accident, accidentally, actual, actually, address, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy, business, calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue*

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of 3 and 4 digit numbers and mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. Concrete apparatus will be used throughout to support their understanding of concepts before moving on to pictorial and abstract methods.



Mental starters will focus on number bonds to 20, 100 and beyond, doubles and halves to 100 and counting on and back in different steps including negative numbers. We will also revisit the 2, 5 and 10 times table to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card
- water bottle and healthy snack
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (current government guidance is for all P.E. lessons to take place outside. Therefore, the children will need the following: jogging bottoms - plain blue or black please, shorts, trainers **(no pumps at the moment)**, white t-shirt, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks



We are really looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best before they move on to middle school. As parents are not able to wait on the playground at the moment, if you want to have a chat with us, please email the office and we will arrange to give you a call. Thank you. *Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger*

BITS AND PIECES

*Due to some disruption to learning last year, continued learning at home will play a significant part in helping your child 'catch up' with missed learning and to help them make accelerated progress to be able to access the Year 4 curriculum. **Reading with your child each night, finding 5 minutes every day to practise their times table recall and any targets sent home will really support your child.**



*Outdoor learning for children in Blue Class will take place on Wednesdays. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

*We have a rich and varied curriculum each day in school which often involves physical and messy activities. We often note that children with long hair which is not tied up can find it challenging to complete these activities and can get frustrated because it gets in their way. To avoid this (and painful tangles and unwanted visitors!), it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.