

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Happy New Year! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and a well-deserved break. The children worked incredibly hard last term and I think you'll agree, they did everyone proud in our Christmas Nativity production. Now the routines and expectations of Year 1 are embedded, we are well placed to help the children make a great deal of progress this term and we will continue to challenge them by slowly increasing more formal aspects to our day to ensure Year 2 doesn't come as a total shock when the time comes! We are excited by our two topics this term which are; Off to Scotland and Special Places. During our Scotland topic we will be working towards our class assembly which we will perform **on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 8.45am in the hall. Families welcome.**

### English

This half term we will be reading Katie Morag stories which are set on the fictitious island of Struay which is modelled on the Isle of Coll. We will be writing our own Katie Morag story. We will follow a model of reading (ensuring we understand what we read), learning punctuation, spelling and grammar then working on planning and writing to produce our own retell of the story. During our punctuation and grammar work, we will have a large focus on accurate use of capital letters and full stops especially when writing at length.

In phonics, we will continue to learn alternative graphemes for known sounds which include split digraphs such as a-e as in cake and o-e as in bone. A huge focus for us as a school is reading fluency which is why it is always good for children to keep books for a few nights to first of all apply skills to work out all the words in the sentences, then to re-read them with increased fluency. Children will sit a National Phonics check in the summer where they will be required to read 20 real and 20 'pseudo' words. The test has a relatively high pass mark and requires accurate sounding out and blending.

Handwriting continues daily with a focus on accurate letter joins. At home, please exploit any natural opportunities for writing such as letters, cards or lists.

### Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of number and how to compare and order numbers and use representations of numbers to prove their thinking. For example: which is larger 34 or 23? Prove it by using base 10 apparatus or an abacus. Children will learn to write numbers 1-20 in words as well as numerals. We will also begin to understand the basics of multiplication and division which are essential for children to understand before they commence rote learning of times tables. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and division as sharing or grouping. We will do this by using objects and pictorial representations to ensure children understand the operations they are doing.

### Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books so we can celebrate and share their successes.

Homework remains **optional** and activities are designed to help you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates in our Gold Book assembly. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. There is huge value in enjoying stories together and it doesn't always have to be the children that do the reading. Please read often and question children to ensure they have understood what they have read/heard and therefore see reading as a pleasure and not just a chore. Encourage them to ask questions too. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour band.

### Topic

We start our Scotland topic by developing our map work skills. We will be reading and interpreting maps, using keys, and locating features using co-ordinates. We will be creating our own maps which we will share with you at our class assembly. We will be developing our drawing skills in art to help us with making our maps. We will consider how to sketch different patterns and textures we see on animals which will link with our work in science.

During our science learning we will be learning about animals found in Scotland and classifying them into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will also be naming and describing external features of humans and other animals.

Music continues weekly and you are in for some Scottish musical treats at our class assembly.

During our Special Places topic, we will have a focus on Sikhism and explore features of Gurdwaras and beliefs and practices which form part of the Sikh religion.



### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks-** please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. (30p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day. More children are frequently forgetting a snack or money which is leaving Mrs Barker short of supplies!

**Clothing-** As the weather is so interchangeable, please ensure children have a warm, waterproof coat in school at all times and that all hats, gloves and scarves etc are named.

**Forest School-** This takes place weekly as follows: **Group 3- Wednesday, Group 4- Thursday, Group 5- Tuesday.** Children should be able to let you know which number group they are in but if in doubt, please ask.

**PE and sports club-** children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure they have jogging bottoms and outdoors shoes in school. All long hair needs to be tied up on Tuesdays.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please see us after school or if it is a specific query, please request an informal meeting/call from Mrs James. After school on Wednesdays is always a convenient time.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs James, Mrs Dudek (Mondays) Mrs Hampton (Tuesday-Friday) and Miss Gardner