

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



A happy return! I hope that you all enjoyed the half term break and were able to do some exciting activities. This half term, our learning opportunities will continue to grow where the children will explore, investigate and discover new skills and ideas during this busy time of year. Mrs Morgan and I will continue to develop the children's confidence and independent learning skills as outlined in the school's vision. I look forward to discussing your child's learning during parent consultations.

TOPIC

We are going to start this half term with a Geography topic called 'Blackwell Bear Travels'. The focus in Yellow Class will be the beautiful islands of the Caribbean.



We will be investigating how the Caribbean differs from other countries on the planet and the reasons for this. The project for this topic will include an 'Our World Celebration' where we will be able to show the other classes our learning.

DT and Religious Education are other areas of the curriculum taught during this topic. Through DT the children will develop their cooking skills and will experiment with different flavours to create Caribbean smoothies.

Religious Education will focus on Buddhism. They will learn about the set of beliefs that Buddhists hold and how these are expressed.

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

As a class, we will read and break down parts of a non-chronological report surrounding 'The Caribbean' which will help to develop sentence structure by adding more information. The children will then have the chance to create their own report, using headings and subheadings, and using paragraphs to organise ideas. The children will have regular handwriting sessions to help continually develop their cursive handwriting to assist them in becoming fluent writers.

In phonics, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding prefixes mis- and re-. Different learning strategies will also be introduced and this will be available in their homework book for guidance. We will also practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:
continue, decide describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, earth, eight, eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward, fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will continue to take part in activities which will assist in developing their understanding of 2 and 3 digit numbers. They will also continue to improve their ability to add and subtract 2-digit numbers mentally and 3-digit numbers using a written method. They will apply these skills when solving word problems. Mental starters will focus on doubles up to 50+50, number bonds to 100 (multiples of 5) and counting in 3s, 4s and 11s.
Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too!



CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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

- snack or tuck money (30p)
- school book bag
- home reading card
- water bottle
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include **jogging bottoms**, shorts, **trainers and pumps**, 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



Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.

BITS AND PIECES

As the weather starts to become colder, children need to have a hooded, waterproof jacket in school with them. In addition, please make sure that the coat, along with other items of clothing have names clearly labelled.

We have already had incidents of lost clothing and names will help to make sure that they get back to the rightful owner.

Your child will bring home reading books to share with you but we also encourage the children to read books that they enjoy (and are appropriately challenging) from home too to help foster a love of reading. Please find time **each night** to support your child with their reading.



Forest School for children in Yellow Class will still take place on Tuesday (group 6), Wednesday (group 7) or Thursday (group 8) this term.
Many thanks.

I have really enjoyed teaching your children and it is clear to see just how happy your children are and how enthusiastic they are to learn. Please catch me at the end of the day if you have any questions.

Thank you. *Miss Phipps*