

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



Welcome back...

Welcome to a new term in Purple Class. We ended the spring term on a high with a fantastic virtual Easter celebration. It was lovely to see so many of your smiling faces including those of extended family. To say we keep adapting to new ways of doing things is an understatement, but Purple Class never ceases to amaze me with the way they tackle things with resilience, confidence and with smiles on their faces. I hope they managed a good rest over the Easter break and I'm looking forward to the summer term together.

Our virtual visit to Worcester Cathedral and using our prayer stones.

Easter story night fun including Mrs. Moran and the Easter Bunny.



TOPIC

Our focus subjects during our 'People around the World' topic are Science, RE and Geography. Our focus is the diverse continent of Africa. We are going to narrow down our studies to the country of Ghana which is in Western Africa. We will be comparing Ghana to England in terms of climate and aspects of human and physical features of geography. We will also learn about the way Ghana harvests many natural resources such as diamonds, gold and cocoa beans. The country has significantly more challenges than the UK and we are going to learn about sustainable ways to support the country. We are hopefully going to convince Mrs Moss to support our chosen charity which is 'Dream Big Ghana' and donate to their 'Big Plant Out' campaign to plant trees to support sustainable living.

In science, we will be learning about what bulbs and seeds need to develop into mature plants and conduct our own scientific experiment about the conditions needed for plant growth.



In RE, we will be learning about what makes a building sacred and we will compare and contrast Christian buildings in England and Ghana and also between religions by comparing churches to mosques and temples. We have planned to use St Catherine's church to provide context to our learning and identify key features of a Christian church. PSHE focuses on relationships within families and the importance of love and security. We will also learn about different types of families and the concept of marriage. Computing will take a coding focus and children will learn to write algorithms and debug when there are errors. For the last week of the half term, we will have a week designated to sport.

Additional notes

PE is always outdoors (Tuesday usually and games this half term). Please make sure your child has trainers as part of their PE kits and children who wear tights need a pair of socks in their PE kits. Hats are needed in school during sunny weather too.

Forest School is on **Mondays** for all of Purple Class. Arms and legs need to be covered.

Water bottles are needed daily as is a morning snack or 30p to purchase one from our tuck shop. Purple Class children can buy their snack on the way into school from our new shop. Children have free fruit in the afternoon.

There is **no** national testing (known as SATS) this academic year.

Spelling

Spelling remains a huge challenge for Purple Class, which is likely to be the national picture. Please help by choosing between 6 and 10 Year 2 keywords a week and practising the spelling of them. Find fun ways to keep children motivated such as magnetic/magazine letters, water 'paint', chalk, spelling pyramids, bingo or word scrambles.

ENGLISH

To begin with this term, we will be reading 'Anansi the Spider' by Gerald McDermott. The story is one from a set of traditional stories set in Ghana and is a famous part of Folklore of the Ashanti people living in that region. The spider is a mischief-maker who is wise and lovable and triumphs over larger foes.

In writing, we will apply our learning from the first part of the year to use a range of punctuation and word classes such as adjectives and conjunctions to write our own non-fiction text about Ghana and then develop our persuasive language in letters to Mrs Moss to encourage her to support our chosen charity. Spelling strategies continue to be taught in phonics sessions and throughout English, and reading skills and strategies are taught throughout the curriculum.



MATHS

We will start the half term by securing our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes. We will be using vocabulary such as polygons, symmetry, and vertices as well as the correct names for shapes. As the term progresses, we will delve into statistics and how to interpret and create our own tally charts, block graphs and simple tables. We will also be calculating with money and comparing the mass and capacity of objects and containers. Our problem-solving focus is logic problems although problem solving is a feature of all aspects of maths.

End of year expectations for mental maths include being able to recall 2, 5 and 10 times tables and division facts, find doubles and near doubles to 20 + 20, recall half of even numbers up to 40, + and - 9 from a 2 digit number, order numbers from 0-100 and use < and > signs when comparing them, recognising odd and even numbers, + and - 2 digit numbers and partitioning numbers in different ways. This list is not exhaustive, and we are aware the children have had disrupted learning, but it is useful to know the types of things we are teaching children. Any practise helps!

I am always here to help and will be more frequently on the snake at the end of the day to give you a smiley wave during this term. If you wish to discuss anything at all, please email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or ring the office and request a telephone call back.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support,

Mrs. James and the Purple Class team x