

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 that they made us proud in the Christmas production telling the story of Christmas around the world. We had a great end to the term by enjoying our Christmas lunch, toasting marshmallows around a fire and many thanks to the PFTA for funding the pantomime on the last day. 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 shock when the time comes! We are excited by our two topics this term which are the Circus and Ancient Egypt.

English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss and for the Circus topic it is called Madeline and the Gypsies. The book's heroine is a little French girl called Madeline and the book lends itself to great discussions about heritage and culture and the old-fashioned concept of touring carnivals. We will use this as our stimulus for writing postcards as Madeline does in the book. Our writing focus will be on writing in accurate, descriptive sentences with capital letters and full stops. We are continuing our handwriting journey with learning how to join letters together. (Apart from capital letters which do not join.)

Reading All schools are advised to adopt a government validated phonics scheme. Our scheme is called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised'. The children in Green Class are taught phonics twice a day to account for missed learning caused by national lockdowns and also read in a small group 3 times a week with an adult. The children read the same book for 3 sessions, all of which have a different focus. This book is then posted online onto your Collins electronic bookshelf. Children have personal logins which were issued last term but please do ask if you need to be given it again. Your support with reading the book again allows the children to show you their fluent, confident reading making it more enjoyable for all parties! We still give children a physical book each week to ensure they have a breath of reading experience. Library books can be changed as frequently as children would like and they are books for adults to read and enjoy together. We really need your support for the children to make good progress. Please initial your child's reading card when they have read.

The focus of our phonics teaching will be upon recognising when 2 or 3 letters are working together in a word and how to read longer words with more than one syllable such as starlight. We will also learn different ways that sounds we know can be made by different graphemes e.g. all these graphemes make the same sound- ai, ay, a a-e.



Topic

During our Circus topic, science and art are our focus subjects. In art, we will be investigating collage including 3D work and will be using the work of Andy Goldsworthy and Patrick Heron as our inspiration. We will look at aspects such as hot and cold colours and contrasting materials such as those which are shiny/dull or dark/light.

In our science learning we will be learning about different materials and their properties. We will start by naming them and then deciding which materials will be best in different situations and why, such as what material would be best to make a tent out of for Madeline's carnival?

Computing will continue weekly and will have a focus on word processing. In music we will learn songs which I remember from childhood such as 'Those magnificent men in their flying machines'. At Blackwell, we operate a topic-based approach to learning for some subjects, where subjects are linked through a topic with a project. These subjects will have a link to circus and we will be writing in every subject to collate a series of entries for Mrs Moss's grand writing competition (with prizes galore!). Our ancient Egypt topic will have a history focus.

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 if they have completed any work at home 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.

Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of number and how to compare, estimate and order numbers including using representations of numbers to prove their thinking. For example: which is larger 34 or 23? Prove it by using base 10 apparatus (10s and 1s rods) or an abacus. Children will learn to write numbers 1-20 in words as well as numerals.

We will also spend time on addition using a counting on method which includes using the visual representation of a bar model which is a whole school focus. Our focus will be on mental methods for addition as it is important children learn mental strategies before applying their knowledge to written ones.

We will end the half term by comparing, calculating and estimating length and height. This will include using bar models again to solve problems.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 10 including subtraction facts, recognising odd and even numbers and finding small differences between numbers. As always, there will be lots of singing in our lessons! Please see mental maths facts on the homework sheet, which when practised at home will become extra fluent! Thank you!

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.

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 is taking place as year group bubbles this term so will be on a **Monday** for the whole class.

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 as PE will be mostly taking place outside. All long hair needs to be tied up on Tuesdays and children who wear tights to school will need socks added to their PE kits. Children will be taught dance in clubs and multi skills/games in PE lessons with the focus up accurate use of equipment and skills such as coordination.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Moss on the gate and we will telephone you to discuss your query.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all a happy, healthy 2022.

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team x