

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Red Class



Happy New Year! It certainly feels like a while since Christmas after all of the surprises at the start of January. We hope it's been a peaceful time for Red Class families with lots of play, rest and, of course, fun in the snow! Our first topic is **'Music to Our Ears'** where we will learn knowledge and skills to create an 'underwater' performance. This will include using our painting skills to create a shoal of fish and composing a simple piece of music for our fish to move to. We'll be using a piece of music from The Carnival of the Animals, 'Aquarium,' by Camille Saint-Saëns to inspire our work. To complete the half term, we will explore **'Belonging'** through Religious Education and Art.

### HANDWRITING

This term, handwriting sessions will focus on handwriting patterns and letter formation. We will start with 'curly caterpillar' letters i.e. *c, a, o, d, g, q* as these letters all start with a round and back action. Please keep practising name writing at home, using cursive letters, as this really helps the children's confidence in school. Please also check your child is holding their pencil with a tri-pod grip.

This is a crucial time for writing in Reception and if your child is learning at home, we will support this.

Tripod Grip



### FOREST SCHOOL

We will continue to visit Forest School every Friday morning for those children in school. At this time of year, it is essential for the children to wear a warm hat, scarf, gloves, thick socks and jogging bottoms. The children also need a spare pair of socks in their book bag all through the year for outdoor play. As we're supported by volunteers and due to possible absence due to Covid-19, sometimes Forest School will take place on the school site. Perhaps children at home can have their own Forest School in the garden...



### FRIDAY FANFARE

During the Government's period of restriction of numbers on school sites, we will not use the Friday Fanfare but will instead speak with many of you and we will also Zoom for reading and will send home the daily ParentApp planning each day.

This period of learning is important to the children and we will work hard to ensure that you are able to support them. Please email [redclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:redclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) with queries.

### READING

Please try to read as often as possible at home. Regular reading has a significant impact on the children's confidence and progress. You don't always need your reading book to read. Reading simple instructions for a Lego project or a keyword snap game are fantastic ways to inspire reading for purpose and pleasure.

### WHAT WILL WE BE LEARNING?

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

##### Communication and Language/Literacy

\*Read and write words with consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th, ng) e.g. **fish** and vowel digraphs and trigraphs (ai, ee, oa, igh) e.g. **tail, light**.

\*Use phonic knowledge to write words and phrases.

\*Retell 'The Rainbow Fish'.

\*Begin to understand and use finger spaces.

**KEYWORDS: he, she, me, we, be, was, my, you.**

##### Mathematics

\*Read, make and understand teen numbers.

\*Explore ordinal numbers e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

\*Read and find o'clock times using an analogue clock.

\*Develop our understanding, recall and application of number bonds up to 6.

##### Physical Development

\*Pass and receive a ball (throw, bounce, roll).

\*Play simple ball games with a partner.

\*Develop handwriting patterns and form curly caterpillar letters: c, o, a, d, g, q.

Wake and Shake - La Bamba

##### Understanding the World

\*Name sources of light and sound.

\*Find out about changes in light and sound caused by actions.

##### Expressive Arts and Design

\*Use a range of tools for painting.

\*Explore different ways to move paint around the page.

\*Experiment with colour and colour mixing.

\*Create a simple 'underwater' composition in Music.



If you any questions, please send an email to [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). We're only a phone call away and we're always happy to help. **Mrs Webb (class teacher), Miss Barber (student teacher), Mrs Hampton (teaching assistant), Mrs Flynn (teaching assistant), Mrs Dyson (teaching assistant) and Miss Edwards (teaching assistant).**