

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to the new school year and welcome to Green Class. We hope you have had a lovely summer break filled with lots of rest and time together. This term is known for being a hard term for children as they enter Year 1. The curriculum changes to a more formal approach to learning. However, for the second year (following a very successful first year) we have taken the decision to mirror the excellent practice from Early Years into Year 1. Children will now be accessing the National Curriculum through taught lessons, guided groups and Continuous Provision (Play and explore time). This approach makes the transition more manageable for children and continues to develop their positive attitude towards their learning. We start the half term with 2 exciting topics: World at War and Autumn during which there are opportunities to meet the Green Class team. We look forward to working with all of our Green Class families and having a really successful year with the children.

English

To start the half term we will be using imagery and extracts from 'The Lion and the Unicorn' by Shirley Hughes. We will be doing lots of reading and oral work first and will then write our own sentences. We will focus on the structure of a sentence: capital letter, sounding out words, having a verb, full stop and checking it makes sense.

In phonics we will revisit all taught phonemes and learn alternate graphemes (way a sound is written) for them e.g. children have learnt p/**ai**/n and will now learn p/**l/ay**.

Daily handwriting takes play with a varied mixture of Writedance, practical fine motor activities such as cotton bud painting and cursive letter formation.

To develop children's communication skills, they will work daily with a learning partner on practical or discussion tasks. These are chosen at random and children will work with that person for the duration of the topic.

Maths

We have a busy half term for the mathematicians of Green Class. We will start the half term by looking at number and we will be counting, reading, writing and comparing numbers. We will then work through stages of addition and subtraction which will include: using concrete objects, calculating mentally, using written methods and then problem solving. This year is about children developing fluency in maths and knowing everything about numbers 0-20.



Homework

Children are given a sheet of **optional** homework activities which enable 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. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The reading books we have are designed to help children notice all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour. (We will support them with this initially and you can always send them back in at the end of the day) Keywords will be accessed during Continuous Provision rather than being sent home.

Topic

All National Curriculum subjects are represented within the classroom continually but below are the focus subjects for our topic lessons.

We start the half term with a history focus. We will be looking at childhood during the war and comparing it to that of our own. We will be developing our investigation skills using a variety of sources such as books, photographs, the school log book and talking to people who lived through war times.

In DT, we are going to create moving pictures to develop our understanding of levers, sliders and pivots. The war scenes we create will be on display at our open evening on 25.9.19.

In Science, the children will learn about seasonal changes and use correct terminology such as deciduous trees. We will be developing our outdoor planting area to help children to name plants including their parts.



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.

PE- takes place on a Tuesday. Please tie up long hair.

Forest School- this takes place every week as follows:

Group 3- Friday, Group 4- Friday, Group 5- Monday.

Children all know their club numbers but if they cannot remember then please ask a member of the Green Class team. On Forest School days, children can come to school dressed in jogging bottoms (black or navy please) and their usual school top. It is a good idea to send in a warm pair of socks on Forest School days or they can stay in PE bags. We have all necessary waterproofs but please make sure we have a pair of named wellington boots in school which still fit!

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please see us after school or if it is a specific concern please request an informal meeting or telephone call with Mrs James in a morning or after school on Wednesdays.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs James, Miss Turner and Miss Gardner