

NEWSLETTER

For Blackwell First School – Purple Class



Welcome to a new school year...

A very warm welcome to the first Purple Class newsletter of the year! We hope that the summer holidays brought you lots of time for fun and rest and that you are feeling ready for a new school year. Mrs Hampton, Mrs Robinson and I are excited to be teaching Purple Class this year and together we aim to give your child a smooth transition into year 2. We look forward to supporting the children academically and socially, particularly focusing on developing the children's independence and resilience at the beginning of the new school year. This newsletter will give you an insight into what we will be learning.

Our first topic of the year is 'Long Ago' with a focus on the 'Anglo Saxons'. History, art and design technology are the main foundation subjects for this topic. In history, the children will be exploring the question, 'How was life different at the time of King Alfred the Great compared with King Charles III?'. To do this, the children will learn who the Anglo Saxons were, why they came to Britain and how they lived. The children will question, interpret, analyse and explain different historical sources to help learn about this important period in British history.

In design technology, the children will develop co-operation and teamwork skills as they create their own model of an Anglo-Saxon house. They will explore stability in structures, generate ideas and create a clear design.

Art lessons will see a further development of mark making techniques using patterns, motifs and shading to create different tones. The final piece of Anglo Saxon inspired artwork will combine all of these skills. We look forward to showing you some of our learning at our open evening event on **Wednesday 4th October 2023, 6-7pm.**

For the second half of this half term, we will enjoy a 'Planet Earth' topic. Here, geography and science will be our foundation subject focus.

Music, P.E. and philosophy are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum area'.

BITS AND PIECES

Each week, your child will bring home a reading book matched to their current reading band and also a 'library book' which will be a free choice book. The library book will support children in being exposed to a wider range of texts and will be tricky for independent reading. Please enjoy this book together. Matched reading books will normally be changed on a Monday, library books can be changed as and when they are completed and each Friday, we will send an eBook and the reading book read in school which the children will be familiar with. Reading this book will help develop children's fluency. Look out for a letter explaining more about eBooks and logins.

The children will have found out more about clubs this week.

Forest School Days are:

Group 1 – Mon / Group 2 – Tues / Group 3 - Weds

Please send your child in wearing plain, dark jogging bottoms/leggings on these days.

LITERACY

'King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table' is our literacy text for this topic. It is a comic-strip retell of a variety of Arthurian stories and legends. The children will develop reading comprehension skills whilst exploring the details of the text. They will be taught to identify verbs in the past and present tense and supported to write in full sentences with capital letters and full stops. The children will be using these skills to produce their own comic-strip autobiography. Phonics, handwriting and discrete reading sessions will continue daily.



NUMERACY

To begin the term, in maths we will be focusing on number. This includes counting, place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction. The children will be counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 and working with number bonds to 10 and 20 (e.g. 1 + 9 and 11 + 9). The children will focus on 1 and 2 digit numbers and how these can be represented in many ways. Spending time securing the children's understanding of smaller numbers is crucial for the development of calculation skills later on in the year. The homework sheet details some maths skills that can be practised at home.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A checklist for each day in school:

- school book bag
- reading/library book and card
- water bottle, 50p for tuck or a healthy snack (no nuts)
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E. kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellies and a pair of thick socks



Please label all belongings with your child's name.

We are looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best. If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

Many thanks

Miss Bailey, Mrs Hampton and Mrs Robinson