

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



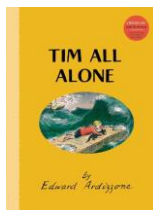
Welcome back! We hope you had a restful half term break; the children were certainly ready for a rest at the end of the half term. We are very proud of the way that they have settled into Year 1 and now that routines and expectations are embedded, we look forward to watching them flourish as learners. It was great to chat to you all at Parent Consultations and your child's targets contain more information on ways for you to help at home. We have two exciting topics during this half term which are: Best Books and Christmas. Our chosen book for our first topic is **Tim all alone** and we will be sharing our learning with you at our exciting **Blackwell Book festival on 1.12.23** (more details on the poster). We are really happy to be welcoming Miss Lewis to Green Class this term as a teaching student who will be with us full time until February. I'm sure you'll join us in welcoming her to the Green Class community.

English

During our Best Books topic, we will be learning to retell a story called Tim all Alone. We will be working hard to develop our understanding of language used in the story and to work on our punctuation and grammar which for Year 1 includes: capital letters, full stops, ensuring sentences have verbs, adjectives, contractions such as **it's**, **she's** and switching between plural and singular versions of nouns. (Quite the challenge when you are only 5 and 6!) We have a 4 week sequence of learning which takes the form of 1. Reading and Retelling, 2. Comprehension, 3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation and finally 4. Planning, writing, checking and editing our story. There will be writing opportunities throughout our sequence such as letter writing and wanted posters. During our Christmas topic we will be reading and writing poems and enjoying many Christmas stories.

In phonics this half term, children will be taught alternative graphemes for known sounds e.g., **ay** in addition to **ai**, **oy** in addition to **oi**, **ie** in addition to **igh** etc. Children read to an adult 3 times a week to practise taught skills and these books are shared at home as a physical book and an eBook on the Collins website. Children also have an additional physical decodable book and a library book which can be changed on a regular basis which is a book to share for pleasure and is to be read by an adult. Decodable books are changed every Friday.

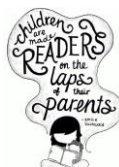
At present, the government plans for Y1 children to take a national phonics test in June 2024. Please do chat to Mrs Moss or myself if you have any queries about reading. We really do value your support in your child's reading journey.



Homework

We have been amazed by the standard of homework that the children have been completing and really value your contributions at home.

Homework sheets are **optional** and activities enable you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. One piece of learning can be submitted each week and please remind children to hand in books if they have completed any. Taking account of the children's age and stage of development, if homework is a challenge, the most significant way to support your child's progress is through regular reading and practising mental maths facts which are listed on the homework sheet. Thank you for all you're doing to support your children.



Topic

During our Best Books topic, our focus subjects are science and geography. In science, we will be learning about humans and animals. We will be categorising animals into groups including carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores and looking at and naming parts of animal and human bodies using the correct vocabulary.

In geography, we will learn to identify features of human and physical geography and decide where our story setting might be as we locate different places around the globe which Tim may have travelled to.

During our Christmas topic we will study the Christian story of the birth of Jesus Christ and learn what Christians believe God is like. We will also prepare some special performances for our families.



Maths This half term we will focus the children's understanding of addition and subtraction using numbers up to 20. We will learn different methods for subtraction including counting back and counting on when numbers are close together. We therefore do not use the term 'taking away' but use **subtract** to find the **difference**. We will also learn about shapes and their properties.

Healthy lifestyles

Snacks- please send children to school with a healthy, **nut free**, morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

Clothing- As the weather changes, please ensure children have a waterproof coat in school at all times and that additional items such as hats and gloves are named to ensure stray items can be quickly returned.

Forest School- Groups are unchanged from last half term and FS takes place in mixed key stage groups as follows:

Group 1- Monday, Group 2- Tuesday, Group 3- Wednesday. Children may come to school in school tops with warm jogging bottoms, thick socks and trainers on these days.

Bookbags- Our storage crates are becoming full with bulky bookbags. Any YR books can now be kept at home and also can keyrings be limited to one small one to aid identification? We are really happy to share medals, certificates, work children have done at home or special news but please leave other toys safely at home.

Thank you as ever for your ongoing support and please do contact the office by telephone or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk if you have any questions or would like an informal chat and I will always get back to you. Alternatively, feel free to chat to me at the end of day Best Wishes, Mrs James and Mrs Thompson