

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, they did everyone proud in our Christmas production. We had a great end to the term by enjoying our Christmas lunch, story night and our pantomime. 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 surprise when the time comes! We are excited by our two topics this term which are the 'Blackwell Film festival' and 'What's special?'.

English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss and for our film festival topic. It's called 'This is not my hat' by Jon Klassen. The story follows a little fish with a stolen hat. We will be writing the story of the little fish and consider different viewpoints such as that of the big fish who had his hat stolen. Our focus will be on accurate sentence writing with capital letters and full stops, neat, joined smaller handwriting and using the conjunction 'and' to make our sentences longer. We will then make puppets and film our storytelling to share with Purple Class at our festival.

Reading- The children in Green Class are taught phonics daily 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, (decoding phonics, fluency and comprehension). This book is then posted online onto your Collins electronic bookshelf and the children take a physical copy home on a Friday. Your support with reading the book again allows your children to show you fluent, confident reading, making it more enjoyable for all parties. In addition, we give children another 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 and to return books every week as they are often needed for another group.

The focus of our phonics teaching will be on 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. Children will be tested in their word reading skills in a National Phonics Screening check in the summer term.



Topic

During our film festival topic, we will have science and art as our focus subjects. In art, we will be making puppet show theatres and will be developing our textiles skills in order to make the show curtain. We will be using the skills of weaving, knotting, wrapping and embellishing fabrics.

In our science learning we will be learning about different materials and their properties. We will start by naming them and then deciding their properties by testing them e.g. which materials are natural and manmade, which are sturdy or fragile?

Computing will continue weekly and will have a focus on using iPads to record and edit our puppet show films. At Blackwell, we operate a topic-based approach to learning where all subjects are linked through a topic with a project. This makes the learning more memorable for the children and allows them to make links between subjects more easily. All subjects will have a link to our film festival which we are sharing in school with Purple Class. Both classes will present their films to each other while we turn the lights down and enjoy a film snack.



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 that 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 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 which need to be practised at home on the homework sheet and these were shared during parent consultations.

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. Please keep chocolate snacks at home now the festive period is over. Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day. Similarly, please keep squash as a drink to have at home.

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 follows- group 1- Monday, group 2- Tuesday, group 3- Wednesday. The club groups remain the same as last term to ensure children can rotate between all offered clubs and continue with started projects in clubs such as sewing. Club groups will be changed in the summer term.

PE and sports club- Children take part in sports lessons several times a week. Please make sure they have jogging bottoms and outdoor shoes in school. All long hair needs to be tied up on Wednesdays, earrings removed and children who wear tights to school will need socks added to their PE kits



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 I will telephone you to discuss your query or chat to me at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all a happy, healthy 2024.

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team