

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to the final half term in Green Class. We hope you enjoyed Sports Day as much as we did and had a good rest over the half term break. The year has flown by, and I can't believe I am writing the final instalment of Green Class news for the year. The children really did end the last half term in a super way. We were so proud of the skills they have shown inside and outside of the classroom including sportsmanship, perseverance, and friendship. This half term is a busy one as we prepare children for their transition into Year 2 and take part in many wonderful events including art workshops and a whole school trip. We have two topics this half term that are 'Castles' and 'On the farm'.

English

We start each topic as always with the arrival of our book from Mrs. Moss. For the 'Castles' topic, we have a book called Small Knight and George. We will be using the ideas in this story to write our own stories. Our focus for our story writing will be using capital letters, full stops and adjectives to make our writing more interesting. We will start the topic by using our skills of prediction. We will also practise tricky word spelling daily. (These words are listed on the homework sheet) During our 'On the farm' topic we will be writing some non-fiction information about the important work farmers do to get food from field to forks.

Phonics- this half term we will secure alternative pronunciations for known graphemes e.g., we know c can make a c sound like in the word cat but also can make a s sound like in the word circus. A similar thing happens with g and j e.g., in the word giant g is making a j sound. Children will take part in a National Phonics Check this week and results will be shared with you in their end of year reports.

Handwriting- this half term we will continue to work on careful letter joins and making sure letters all start and end from the line and are the right size when compared to each other i.e. tall letters such as l,b,d,k,h are all taller than other letters.



Topic

During our castles topic we have the focus subjects of history and art. In history, we will explore the big question of **How was Queen Elizabeth I different from Queen Elizabeth II?** We will be comparing periods of history within the children's living memory and beyond. We will learn about the lives of these significant individuals and learn about key events in history such as the recent passing of a monarch and the coronation of a new one. All of our work will help to form part of a whole school film entitled 'Fit for a Queen' (watch this space).

Our art focus is 3D forms, and we will be using clay to create our own bowls with natural material impressions. We will focus on artists such as Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy.

PE will continue weekly with a focus on outdoor games as children will learn to control equipment such as balls and hoops to play simple games with rules such as piggy in the middle and scoring games.

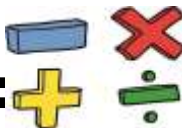
Computing learning this half term will focus on using technology to create different things such as word documents/paintings. PSHE will focus on changes and moving on as we prepare the children for their transition to Purple Class.



Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in to helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so 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. Reading remains the best homework you can do with children, multiple times a week as it has a **significant** impact on their progress. Our Little Wandle e books accessed on the Collins website are the most phonetically well matched to your child's ability and will be a book they have read 3 times in school already making it an enjoyable fluent read for you (hopefully!) Mrs Garner has all passwords should you have misplaced them.



Maths

Mental maths continues daily using facts listed on the homework sheet such as doubles, halves, number bonds and the place value of numbers up to 100. We take part in weekly 3-minute dashes which are mental maths timed quizzes which aid in the children's maths fluency. These dashes will take place **daily** in Year 2 which is a whole school approach.

Our lessons will focus on counting, ordering and comparing numbers up to 100 and then we will move onto developing our skills of addition and subtraction including using bar modelling. Bar modelling is a whole school approach which provides children with a visual representation of the maths they are doing.

We will also be learning about positions and directions including using words such as left/right and making different turns such as whole turns and half terms (This will link to our fractions learning) We will end the year by learning about money; counting and calculating with it.

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. (40p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

Forest School- This is taking place as mixed year groups weekly as follows- Group 1 Monday, Group 2 Tuesday, Group 3 Wednesday, Group 4 Thursday and Group 5 Thursday. **(This is unchanged from last half term)** We still require children to have arms and legs covered even in hot weather. Long sleeved cotton tops can be kept in PE bags for hot days to avoid the need for jumpers/waterproofs if preferred.

PE and sports club- Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure long hair is tied up **and tape is provided for children with pierced ears** who cannot remove earrings themselves. Removing them is best practice. (Tuesday is our main PE day) Children will need shorts, t shirts and trainers in their PE bags for outdoor PE.

Sun safe- as the glorious sunshine has made an appearance, please send children to school with a named hat and sun cream applied on sunny days.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email the office office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk and I will telephone you back, or informal chats can happen at the end of the school day on the playground.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs James