

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



### Welcome back!

Hopefully, you have all had a refreshing and relaxing week and are ready to start this last half term in Purple Class with great enthusiasm for our last weeks of learning before the summer holidays! The year has flown by and we are very excited for our learning in Purple Class with our new topic 'Castles and Tudors'. We have a wonderful whole school trip to look forward to and also it is our time to shine with our family assembly to celebrate all our fantastic learning!

### TOPIC

We are starting this half term with a Topic called 'Castles and Tudors'. History and Art are the main areas of the foundation subject curriculum taught during this topic.



In History, the children will develop their historical skills and knowledge through learning about important people within and beyond living memory. Their learning will build up to answering our BIG question:

*'Was life better with Queen Elizabeth I or Queen Elizabeth II as monarch?'*

We will explore and learn about different monarchs and how life was during these time periods. The children will use historical sources, develop reasoning skills and give their own opinion using learnt skills as a historian.

Our Art learning will focus on printmaking and the children will be working hard to develop their skills to produce a final collaborative piece of art. Their learning will focus on using different materials to create unique prints based on castles. We look forward to sharing some of our learning with you in our Family Assembly.

PSHE, Music, Computing, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

### BITS AND PIECES

Now the weather is bright and sunny (hopefully!), please send your child to school with suncream already applied or their own labelled suncream that they can apply themselves. A sunhat is needed for playtimes, P.E. and forest school sessions so please send one in with your child, clearly labelled with their name.

As children head towards Year 3, let's all try to build their independence further. Children can be responsible for their own bookbags, bottles and reading books – but a little prompt may be needed! Many children enjoy changing their class library book weekly. Please do send library books (and home reading books) back into school each week so children can enjoy and share new books with you.

Save the date of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June as our Family Assembly. We will look forward to showing you lots of our learning (and you might even get to take part as well!).

### LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'The Tale of the Castle Mice' by Michael Bond. This wonderful book tells the tale of family of mice who face a big dilemma. The children will deepen their understanding of the structure of fiction texts through discussion, questioning and inferring. They will have several writing opportunities to apply the taught skills from this year – with vocabulary, punctuation and grammar – and will further develop independence in proof-reading and editing their writing. As we head towards Year 3, the expectation for independence and writing stamina increases. Children have learnt many strategies to help with spelling and sentence structure as well as how to improve sentences by extending, changing words and making additions.



Handwriting sessions will continue to focus on specific letter and number formation and in spelling lessons children will learn more about patterns such as changing the y to an i (marry-married), al/le/il/el word endings and the way the 'o' makes an 'u' sound in words like Monday, money and other. All common exception words from Year 1 and 2 will be revised so that children can read them fluently and recall strategies to spell them accurately.

### NUMERACY

During numeracy lessons this half term, children will be deepening their understanding of all four operations, with a particular focus on problem solving. Our main strategy for problem solving is the use of bar modelling. This helps children visualise each problem, which in turn helps them to choose the right method for calculation. Children will solve problems with number and measures.

We will continue to build children's fluency in mental maths and ask that they continue to practise the targets given at parent consultations plus any written on the homework sheet. Recall of multiplication and division facts is now key heading towards Year 3 where they will have many more facts to remember and retain. Year 2 children need to have instant recall (not counting on fingers!) of multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Online games such as Hit the Button and Squeebles are good ones to head to for some daily practise. Asking children tables regularly helps to retain these facts. Maybe choose 5 facts a week to focus on and master.



We are looking forward to all the exciting learning for our final half term in Purple Class!

Please email the office if you have any questions as we are always happy to help. Thank you.

*Miss Chamberlain, Miss Kuriger, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Morgan.*