

# NEWSLETTER

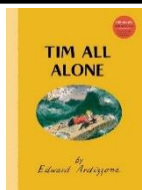
for Blackwell First School – Green



Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a restful half term break. The children were certainly ready for a rest at the end of half term. We are very proud of the way 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: Stories and Christmas. Our chosen book for our first topic is **Tim all Alone** and we will be sharing our learning with you via ParentApp. We will be dressing up as our favourite book characters (fiction or non-fiction) on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – we can't wait to see the children's outfits.

## English

During our Stories topic, we will be learning to retell the story 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. We have a 4-week sequence which takes the form of 1. Reading and prewriting, 2. Planning and drafting, 3. Revising and 4. Publishing and Sharing. There will be writing opportunities throughout the sequence. During our Christmas topic, we will be reading and writing poems and enjoying many Christmas stories.



## Topic

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



In art, we will be learning about the artist Jasper Johns and talking about his paintings, practicing using different brush strokes and mixing colours to make them lighter and darker.

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



## Phonics and reading

In phonics this half term, children will be taught alternative graphemes for known sounds. Children read to an adult 3 times a week to practise taught skills and these books are then shared at home the following week. Children also have an additional decodable book and a reading for pleasure library book which can be changed on a regular basis. Please remember to bring in reading folders on a Wednesday, ready to be changed for a Friday.



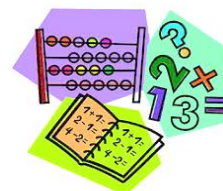
## Homework

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 the children to hand in books if they have completed any. Books will be returned on a Friday. If homework is a challenge, the best 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 and their learning.



## Maths

This half term, we will focus on 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. We do not use the term 'take away' but use **subtract** to find the **difference**. Later on in the half term, we will be learning about different shapes and their properties.



**Snacks** – Please send children to school with one healthy, nut free, morning snack or alternatively a 50p to buy a snack from the tuck shop. Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**Clothing** – As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please ensure children have a waterproof coat in school at all times. Please make sure all uniform is labelled (including coats, hats and gloves). We have had a few lost uniform items due to no name labelling.

**Clubs** – Groups are unchanged from last half term, with forest school remaining on the same days. Children may come to school in school tops with warm plain black, navy or grey jogging bottoms, thick socks and trainers on these days.

**Bookbags** – Can keyrings on book bags be limited to one small one to aid identification? Keyrings are starting to become a distraction and lots break, leaving us unsure who they belong

Thank you all for your continued support. If you wish to speak to us about anything, please do contact the office by telephone or email

[office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) or catch us at the end of the day for an informal chat.

**Best wishes, Miss Smith, Mrs Thompson and the Green Class Team**