

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



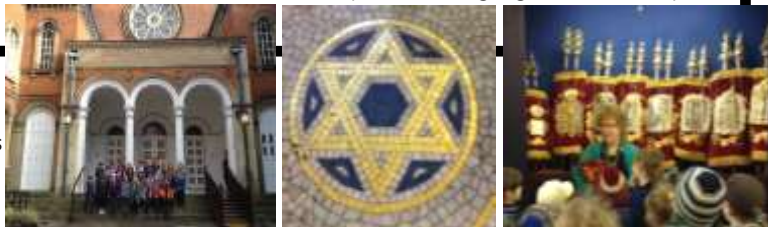
Welcome back to school. We hope you had a restful half term back and that the children are ready for another exciting half term in Green Class. The children had a fantastic end of the half term by being thoroughly enthralled by our Building a Business topic and we are really proud to have raised money to support local charities. Our 'Our World' topic ended fantastically with a trip to Singers Hill Synagogue where the children represented the school and themselves excellently. We continue to be very proud of them and are looking forward to the next steps in their learning journey by altering our approach to focus groups which will allow children to work more independently from adults in preparation for Year 2. Whilst it seems a long way off, we make changes to our day gradually for it to be as smooth as possible for the children. This half term we look forward to the topics of 'Long ago and far way' and Easter.

### English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss and for our 'Long ago and far away' topic. It is called 'Aladdin and his magic lamp'. The book lends itself to lots of opportunities for writing including postcards which Aladdin sent from his travels, character descriptions and instructions on how to be a prince. Our focus will be on writing accurate sentences which have capital letters, full stops and accurate use of phonics. This is the sole aim for Year 1 and is certainly a challenge.

### Reading

This half term we continue to learn that sounds we know can be made by different graphemes (letters or combinations of letters) e.g. all these graphemes make the same sound- ai, ay, a, a-e! Our work will help in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in June. All children will be 'tested' on their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. 20 are real and 20 are alien words. The pass mark is usually around 32. Whilst we don't use the language of 'test' with children and they often enjoy the 1:1 reading sessions with Mrs Moss and I, it is really important that child practise the skill of accurate sound talking and blending at home and at school. **Our eBooks are great practise for this. Please log into them.**



### Topic

During our 'Long ago and far away' topic, we have a focus on Art and History. In History, we will be comparing life today to life long ago and far away. We will learn about the ancient city of Bagdad in AD 900. We will compare key aspects such as transport and communities.

In Art, we will develop our collaging skills. We will be studying the work of the following artists- Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Long and Patrick Heron. We will use their work as inspiration as we explore hot and cold colours and those with contrasting effects e.g. shiny and dull. The children will create a final piece which will be used as the artwork on certificates for a grand writing competition we are holding in which Mrs Moss will award prizes for effort and achievement.

Computing continues weekly and we will be teaching the children to write their own codes in order to make events happen.

For the final two weeks of the term, Religious Education forms the focus for our Easter topic.

### 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 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 and our eBooks are essential for children to develop reading fluency at the correct level.

### Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of subtraction which is the most complex of all the calculations. We will be solving subtraction calculations by counting back and counting on when the numbers are close together e.g. for 30 - 27 the children will count on from 27 rather than count back 27 from 30. We will use this knowledge to help us find the difference between 2 numbers. As always, we will use bar modelling as a visual representation for the maths we are doing. Children will develop their written method of subtraction and mental methods. We will be calculating with numbers up to 100. We end the term with a measurement unit where the children will be measuring and calculating with money and learning to tell the time to o'clock and half past times.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 10 and 100 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 on the homework sheet, which when practised at home will become extra fluent.

Parts of Subtraction

$$\begin{array}{c} 5 - 1 = 4 \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \text{Minuend} \quad \text{Subtrahend} \quad \text{Difference} \end{array}$$

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

**Forest School-** This is taking place as mixed key stage groups as follows- group 1- Tuesday, group 2- Wednesday, group 3- Monday. **This is unchanged from last half term.**

**PE and sports club-** Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure long hair is tied up and **earrings are removed on a Tuesday if children cannot take them out by themselves.** Athletics will be our focus this half term so please provide children with jogging bottoms and trainers as it will be taking place outdoors.

I want to say a HUGE thank you for all your kind donations for our salad bar business. We raised over £50 profit and are delighted that we have used it to support local Bromsgrove families to have access to vital food they need from foodbanks. It was a very successful project and I'm very proud of my chefs.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email the office [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto: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 back playground.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team x