

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back after the half term break. We are now half way through this academic year and the children are working extremely hard and developing excellent attitudes towards their learning. The last half term was a busy one...making their own films to share with Yellow Class, developing cultural awareness with a fascinating trip to a Hindu temple, learning tricky gymnastic balances and creating their own picture books narrating the journey of water to share with Red Class were just some of the highlights. We have lots more exciting learning and experiences in store for this half term too to continue to develop the children into lifelong, motivated and curious learners. In a few weeks' time, we look forward to meeting with you during parent consultations and sharing with you both your child's academic progress but also their social and personal development, alongside targets to work on in school and at home.

TOPIC

'Pirates' is our topic to kick start the new half term where the children will create their own pirate board game incorporating their learning from across the curriculum. Having a project approach to their learning helps to motivate the children and make all learning purposeful.



To develop their thinking and collaborative skills, we started the topic on Monday, investigating what Britain was like during the Elizabethan times when piracy was prevalent and the reasons why some people became pirates. The children were then faced with the dilemma: Should John (a fictional character) join the pirates and sail away from his life in England? The children were certainly creative with their ideas and showed excellent reasoning skills.

History and DT are the main subjects taught during this topic. In History, children will learn about some real-life pirates and then focus on Sir Francis Drake, gathering evidence to decide whether he was an English hero or whether he was actually a villain. Children will learn about his exploits and triumphs and will assess the causes and consequences of his actions. At the end of our lessons, we will decide why different people have had different opinions about this famous figure and share our own viewpoints.

Cooking and nutrition are the areas of focus in D.T. and children will get to grips with bread! After researching existing products and recipes, children will design their own recipe for tasty bread and design eye-catching pirate packaging too. They will consider the type of flour to be used, the flavours to be added and whether or not they will include toppings on their bread. Children will develop grinding, kneading and shaping skills and of course will look forward to testing and evaluating their new products.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, 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

Thank you for supporting your child at home with daily reading and times table practise. It makes a big difference and with continued regular practise, they will be secure with these key learning skills in preparation for middle school.

Even though we still have half a year left, it is important we work together to further develop the children's independence before they go to middle school. Encouraging them to check their own book bags for things they need, carrying their own belongings to and from school and talking to their friends or adults in school if they have any problems are some of the small things that can make a big difference.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. Many thanks. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

LITERACY

In Literacy, we will be exploring non-fiction texts to learn more about the 'Pirates'. We will visit our school library, use contents, indexes and glossaries to retrieve information efficiently and learn more about non-fiction features and purposes.

The children will then use these reading skills to help them to plan their own non-chronological report about pirates which will form part of their trivia questions for their board game. Writing with cohesion and with a variety of sentence structures will be the focus in addition to proofreading and editing their draft report, all key writing skills.

Spelling for this half term will focus on the prefixes inter- and anti-, words ending with -cian, -sion, -tion and -ssion, and words with the 's' sound spelt with 'sc' e.g. science, descend, abscess...

Take a look back at last half term...



learning about Hinduism on our trip



exploring column subtraction in Maths



learning to play Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious



counter balances in P.E.



NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will focus on the following mental methods for multiplication and division:

multiplication	division
x 4: double twice	÷ 4: halve twice
x 8: double thrice	÷ 8: halve thrice
x 5: x 10 then halve	÷ 5: ÷ 10 then double
x 50: x 100 then halve	÷ 50: ÷ 100 then double
x 25: x 100 then halve twice	÷ 25: ÷ 100 then double twice

Problem solving continues to be part of every maths lesson and the children are developing skills to solve complex multistep problems through the use of bar modelling.

A key life skill learned in maths is to tell the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks to 5-minute intervals. We only have a couple of weeks during the year to teach this tricky concept so support from home makes a big difference. The following link is to an online game to help consolidate understanding.



https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling_the_time#