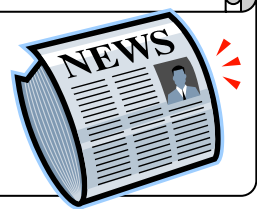


NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



A happy return! I hope that you all enjoyed the half term week and were able to have some exciting times. This half term, the children's learning will progress further and we will have lots of events happening during this busy time of year leading to Christmas. Miss Kuriger, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Morgan and I will continue to support the children in developing confidence and independent learning skills across all subjects.

TOPIC

We are going to start this half term with a topic called 'Traditional Tales'.

The focus in Purple Class Science will be animals, including humans, and what they need to survive, grow and be healthy. This includes the children developing their scientific skills to understand life cycles and different food groups. Why was the third billy goat gruff so large? Children will investigate growth by gathering data and making conclusions.

Geography will focus on global understanding, learning about continents, oceans, climates and linking these to location using maps of different scales. Where in the world do traditional tales come from? Children will use maps to locate different countries of the world.

Art is the other area of the curriculum taught during this topic. In Art, the focus is painting, and the children will be developing their brush stroke skills and exploring how paint can be used on different surfaces in abstract artwork. They will complete their own troll painting applying new techniques.

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



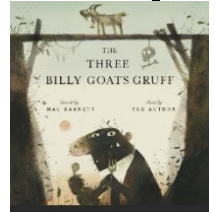
LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' by Mac Barnett which will help to develop vocabulary and give the children the opportunity to make story comparisons between different versions of texts. The children will learn more about secure sentence punctuation, revisit and further develop their use of conjunctions and also learn more about adjectives and how these can be used effectively to tell us more about nouns. The children will have two main writing opportunities during this topic which will be used to apply new learning – writing a description of their own troublesome troll and also writing instructions for their own imaginative way to defeat the troll.

In phonics, the children will continue to revisit and review phase 5 from our phonics programme, which focuses on alternative sounds for the same grapheme, e.g. ow (snow, cow) and how to use 'best bets' in our writing. Different learning strategies will also be introduced to give the children ideas of how to practise spellings in a variety of ways. We will also continue to practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:

because, pretty, hour, move, improve, parents, shoe, busy, laugh, our, once, Christmas

The children will continue to have regular handwriting sessions to help develop cursive writing and writing fluency.



BITS AND PIECES

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card and reading book (Monday is our usual book change day)
- water bottle and snack/tuck money
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E. kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer, socks for children who wear tights and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks

Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner. We have had a number of cardigans and jumpers without names so it is worth checking names have not been washed out.

Forest School will be **Monday** for **group 3**, **Tuesday** for **group 1** and **Wednesday** for **group 2**. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go. Please also make sure they have gloves, scarves and tights/trousers now that the weather is cooler.

Please read with your child daily to help build fluency and develop word meaning.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will complete a range of activities to help develop their understanding of addition and subtraction of two 2-digit numbers by making numbers using different resources and using the written method of a number line to count on and back. They will also be exploring commutativity, meaning addition, but not subtraction, can be done in any order. Children will learn more about the use of inverse calculations and use these to answer missing number problems.

We will also learn specific problem solving skills to develop children's logical thinking.

Mental maths work will focus on the two times tables, doubles and halves and number bonds to 20 to begin with, moving onto number bonds to 100 using multiples of 10. We use a variety of activities to support mental maths skills such as games, songs and puzzles.

Daily mental maths practice at home is extremely useful. Please make use of the mental maths sheet given during parent consultations to support with this.



I have really enjoyed teaching the children during the last half term and it is clear to see just how happy they are and how enthusiastic they are to learn. Thank you for your support with this.

Please email the office or catch us after school if you have any questions as we are always happy to help.

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