

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



**A happy New Year!** I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and made great memories with your loved ones. This half term, the children's learning will progress further, continuing to challenge and deepen their thinking. We will have lots of exciting events happening during this half term. Miss Kuriger, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Morgan and I will continue developing the children's resilience and independent learning skills across all subjects.

### TOPIC

We start this half term with a topic called 'Building a Business'. It is a great topic to support the children with creative and problem solving skills as well as helping them understand about jobs in the real world.



For our introductory day, we explored and discussed different businesses and their audiences. The children considered how businesses could be more equal for everyone and whether or not it is fair to have 'tasty treat' businesses when many people struggle with food and heating. We considered local charities who help. We will be supporting a local charity through our own Purple Class biscuit business which you will hopefully be a part of too.

In DT we will test different biscuits to see what is available and to gain ideas for our own biscuit designs. We'll develop cooking skills and then take orders and create perfect products for our customers. Keep your eyes open for order forms very soon!

The focus in Purple Class science will be materials, which will include the children developing their scientific skills to understand the everyday uses of materials for different objects. They will carry out different investigations to compare materials for their durability and absorbency and then will be able to suggest which materials are best for which uses.

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.

### READING

A reminder that home reading books (those that are colour banded or sent home as an ebook) are changed at the start of each week or Fridays. Please encourage your child to read these books at home and send them in on a Monday so that they can be changed regularly. Library books (which are not colour banded) are for reading for pleasure and ideally should be shared together with your child. These books can be changed as often as they are finished. We have plenty of excellent fiction and non-fiction books to choose from in our Purple Class library box. Regular reading at home has a huge impact on reading progress so thank you for reading regularly with your child.

### READING

Forest School will be **Monday** for **group 3**, **Tuesday** for **group 1** and **Wednesday** for **group 2**. Please send children with gloves, scarves and tights/trousers now that the weather is cooler. Please label all property that comes into school with your child's name.

### LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'Mr Magnolia' by Quentin Blake which will help to develop vocabulary and reading fluency. The children will continue to develop their understanding of the punctuation used in Year 2, including how an apostrophe can be used in contracted words and to show singular possession e.g. *Mr Magnolia's new boot*.



Throughout the topic, children will be taught to apply this punctuation as well as their use of adjectives and conjunctions which were areas of focus last term.

Many children find the increase in expectation in writing for Year 2 a challenge. We will continue to support the children in developing writing stamina through engaging opportunities such as postcard and story writing. The children will continue to have regular handwriting sessions to help develop cursive handwriting.

The phonics approach will continue throughout literacy lessons, although discrete spelling sessions will now focus more upon spelling patterns and rules. We will also continue to practise reading and spelling 'tricky words'. These are the ones to focus on reading and spelling this half term:

***only, old, cold, told, gold, hold, door, poor, floor, Mr, Mrs, should, cold, would, both, most, again***

### NUMERACY

Throughout this half term, we will continue to revisit the addition and subtraction methods children learnt last term, particularly how to use these to solve problems. However, our focus this term will shift to multiplication and geometry with a focus on shape. Children will link repeated addition to multiplication and will learn to use the multiplication symbol in equations for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We'll begin to learn these multiplication facts by heart. Shape work in Year 2 is with both 2D and 3D shapes where children learn to name and describe the properties of different shapes. They will compare and classify shapes according to their properties.



Mental maths continues with addition facts, bonds to 20, adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and halves and doubles to double 20.

Later in the term, we'll focus on telling the time. The expectation for Year 2 curriculum is that children can read the time on an analogue clock in divisions of 5 minutes. This is very challenging for many children. Please support your child in learning how to read o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to times. This will help significantly later in the term.

I have really enjoyed teaching the children during the last half term and it is great to see how happy and enthusiastic they are to learn.

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*