

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back everyone.** We hope you had an enjoyable half term break and a good rest. The children in Blue Class are now in their final half term at Blackwell First School and we are very proud of how hard they have worked this year. Despite a couple of years of challenges due to Covid-19 in their very early years, they have developed good learning behaviours including resilience and independence and leave us being respectful and responsible individuals with minds full of aspirations. However, it's not over yet! We have a very busy last half term and we hope to make it an exciting and memorable one for all children so they will take away very fond memories of their time here. We have two fascinating topics left ('Back in Time – Britain at War' and 'Amazing Earth – Magnificent Mammals'), an arts event led by the Royal Ballet and the event that the children have been looking forward to all year...our residential!

### TOPIC

'Back in Time' is our new topic, where the children will be investigating Britain during the World Wars. A dilemma based on conscientious objection – should people be able to refuse to fight in war? - will be used to start the topic helping the children to see and understand significant events from different viewpoints.



History and Art are the main subjects taught during this topic. In History, children will explore the causes and main events of World War II. They will learn about the impact of the war on men, women and children and learn about how the war affected our school here in Blackwell, using our old school log books. Children will use a variety of primary sources to find out more about life during wartimes. As this topic is sensitive in many ways, it will be best to avoid letting your child research freely on the internet. All content in school will be presented at a level appropriate to year 4.

Through Art, children will learn about 3D techniques, focusing on shaping clay. They will You may see our artwork at the summer fair!

In our second topic of the half term, children will learn more about mammals, teeth and the digestive system in Science and will further develop sewing and joining skills in D.T.

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

### SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

To prepare your child for middle school, the following would be supportive:

- staying at school until 3.15pm as much as possible
- develop their independence by giving them more responsibility e.g. packing their own school bag, taking responsibility for reading each night, handing forms from their bags to you yourselves and returning them to school etc.
- reminding them that a good quality piece of homework should be handed in every Tuesday
- talking to your children about moving to middle school, talking openly about feelings in a positive and honest way

### LITERACY

Michael Morpurgo's 'Poppy Field' is the text we will share to develop the children's reading and writing skills. It is an original tale of courage, love and loss following one family over four generations where a faded poem hanging in their home helps tell their family's story. This poem becomes world renowned as John McCrae's 'In Flanders Field'.



Identifying themes and structures in the story will develop the children's reading skills as well as highlighting various characters in the story considering feelings, thoughts and actions. The children will plan through story mapping a retell and orally rehearse this focusing on the use of rich vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures. The use of subordinating conjunctions, fronted adverbials and correctly punctuated dialogue will further consolidate their writing skills.

Handwriting lessons continue to help increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting and pens will be introduced to support transition to middle school. Spelling lessons will focus on using apostrophes for possession for singular and plural nouns, exploring prefixes such as auto-, sub- and re- and adding the suffix -ly to words ending in -ic, -le and -y.

### NUMERACY

Fractions and measurement are the areas of focus. During their fraction learning, they will use concrete apparatus to develop a secure understanding. Making fractions, counting in fractional steps, adding and subtracting, comparing, finding equivalences and finding fractions of numbers (i.e. 5/7 of 56) will be some of the challenging learning the children will explore. Measurement will include calculating area and perimeter and telling the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks.

The children have now been taught all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. Over the next few weeks, they will complete the national 'Times Table Check'. It is important that children can recall all times table facts fluently as this will help them to more easily access the Y5 and Y6 maths curriculum so please encourage your child to practise them daily. Thank you.

Please see the homework sheet to see which other mental maths facts and skills we will be focusing on this half term.

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](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). Many thanks. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

Take a look back at some of last half term's highlights...



investigating different pitches in Science



fun at sport's day



paddling along the canal



enjoying making and playing our Journey to Jo'burg board game