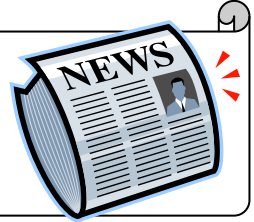


NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



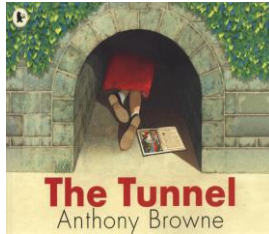
Welcome back to the last half term of the year. I am always shocked at how quickly time flies and this year has been no exception. It has been quite a journey I've had with this cohort of children, and I am really looking forward to ending the year on a high with two exciting topics called 'Fantasy Lands' and 'Deep in the Jungle'. Last half term saw the children embrace raising money to help people in Africa by planting trees and they also competed in our School Games Day taking part in team and individual events. I continue to be proud of the class for their attitude towards their learning and the personal skills they show such as good sportsmanship.

TOPIC

During our first topic, we are going to have a special visit from the CBSO string orchestra and use an App called Garage Band to compose music using technology. We will create music to match imaginary fantasy lands. As a school, we are also introducing Kodaly as a new method of singing which combines notes and hand gestures to help children with pitching. It is a steep learning curve for staff. Watch this space!

Art and DT are the focus subjects for our Fantasy Lands topic. We will be developing our collage techniques in art to form a final piece which can be purchased at the Summer Fayre. In DT, it is the cooking and nutrition unit we have to look forward to. Children will be tasting, designing, and making their own individual salad cup which will be their snack as we explore the artwork on display from all classes at our Fantasy Land Art gallery. (This is a child event but we are crossing all our fingers that we can get you into school very soon.)

For our jungle topic we will have an Art and Geography focus as well as transition being our main PSHE focus as we prepare children for Key Stage 2.



ENGLISH

All of our English learning will be focused on the story 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne during our first topic. We will learn to retell the story and innovate it to make it our own. In the story, the tunnel takes the children to a woodland, but I wonder where Purple Class's imaginations will take them? Our writing focus will be using correct punctuation and making our writing interest the reader through interesting vocabulary which is a whole school focus.

Phonics continues daily with a focus on using different spelling patterns such as suffixes (a part at the end of the word which changes its meaning) such as ful, less and ly e.g. beautiful, quickly, hopeless.

Our handwriting focus is on writing letters of a consistent size and the correct size in relation to each other i.e. tall letters such as l, h, b are taller than letters such as a and e. During our jungle topic we will use the book The Great Kapok Tree as our inspiration.



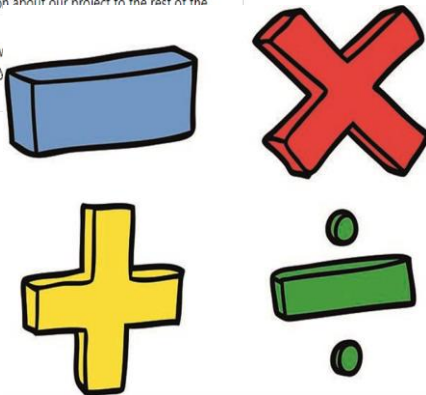
We have been overwhelmed by the response from the Dream Big Foundation following our fundraising. Look here at their messages...

Denyigba
12h · 🌐

We want to say a special THANK YOU to the pupils, parents and teachers of Purple Class at Blackwell First School in the UK. The pupils have been learning about Ghana and fundraising for the Big Plant Out, as well as presenting information about our project to the rest of the school!

We hope you have enjoyed seeing pictures from the v team here in Ghana and we are hoping to meet with you soon!

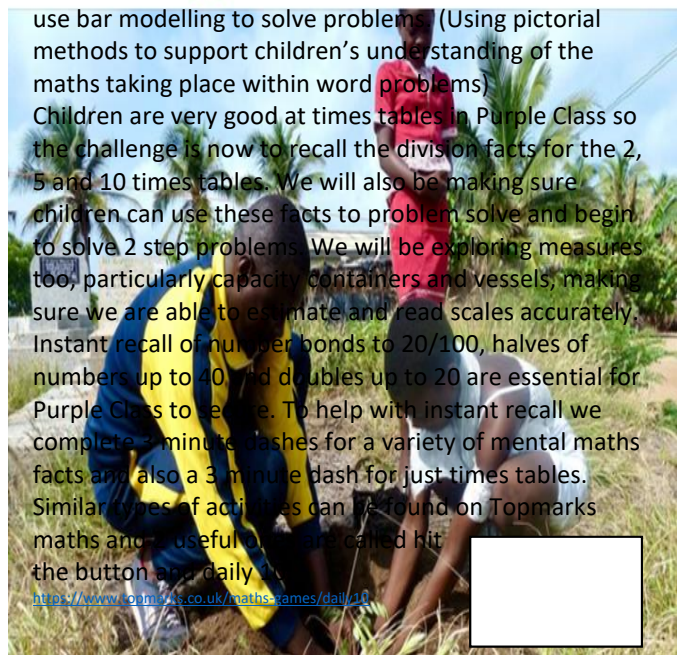
Akpe kakaka (Thank you very much!)



MATHS

This half term we will be securing our skills of number by using the four areas of calculation using numbers up to 100 with both mental and written methods. We will also use bar modelling to solve problems (Using pictorial methods to support children's understanding of the maths taking place within word problems)

Children are very good at times tables in Purple Class so the challenge is now to recall the division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will also be making sure children can use these facts to problem solve and begin to solve 2 step problems. We will be exploring measures too, particularly capacity containers and vessels, making sure we are able to estimate and read scales accurately. Instant recall of number bonds to 20/100, halves of numbers up to 20 and doubles up to 20 are essential for Purple Class to be able. To help with instant recall we complete 2 minute dashes for a variety of mental maths facts and also a 3 minute dash for just times tables. Similar types of activities can be found on Topmarks maths and a useful online mental kit <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>



HOMEWORK

Weekly homework remains optional for KS1 but it would be good practice for Year 3 to see more children completing some of the activities sent home at the start of the half term. From September, we will be monitoring the frequency of reading taking place at home so again it would be great to see children reading multiple times a week as there is a direct link between regular reading and children's progress. Finally, it is the expectation that children will be able to spell all the Year 1 and 2 keywords by the end of the year so whilst we don't routinely test children (we assess on an ongoing basis), any support you could offer with this would be appreciated.

Thanks again for your ongoing support. If there is anything you wish to discuss, please email me on office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or telephone the office and I will get back to you. Thanks as always for your ongoing support, Mrs James x