



NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School – Green



Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you enjoyed the Easter break despite Storm Dave and his varied weather. We wanted to say a BIG well done to the children for their fantastic achievements last term including a wonderful class assembly, becoming wake and shake champions and creating a beautiful piece of artwork which is proudly displayed outside our classroom. This term is very exciting for Team Green as we move to a more formal Year 1. The children will continue to learn through practical experiences with time to work independently at their tables. An extra daily outside playtime, movement breaks within lessons and two PE lessons each week will ensure they transition well with this change. As well as our **fantastic new topic**, 'Let's Travel', **we're** also off to the cricket! The children will take part in a cricket festival at Bromsgrove Cricket Club, Thursday, 23rd April. More information can be found on ParentApp.



Great Fire Artwork

English

We start this topic with the arrival of two special books from Mrs Moss. The first, 'My Friend Earth', will inspire awe and wonder around our wonderful planet and support our class artwork. The second book, 'The Suitcase', will help us to explore special memories. We are going to use both books to create some descriptive poems. Our focus, as always, will be on using capital letters and full stops, using our phonics knowledge and resources in the classroom to support spelling and checking for sense. We will also revisit exclamation marks and question marks and **join clauses with 'and'**.



Phonics

Daily Phonics lessons and group reading lessons will continue this term. The children will revisit previously taught grapheme/phoneme correspondences and will be introduced to alien words. Alien words are nonsense words that the children read using their sound talk and blend skills. During the Phonics Screening Check in June, the children will be assessed by their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. Half of these words will be alien words. The children will see the Phonics Screening Check as a fun quiz. How can you help at home? Please read as often as you can as this really does impact reading progress and confidence. Use the personalised reading targets on your child's report and use our past and present homework sheets to revisit phonics learning e.g. reading words with split digraphs (**bake, these, kite, hope, cube**).

Please continue to send reading folders (and books) into school on Thursdays. Reading for pleasure books (library books) can be returned any day.

Maths

We always start our Maths lessons with a mental starter to 'warm up' ready for the lesson. During our starter we sing songs and play games to support counting and to fluently recall facts such as number bonds, doubles and halves. Any support with your child's **personalised Maths target** will help them to make further progress.

This half term, we will focus on multiplication, division and fractions. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and grouping. Children will use concrete apparatus (real objects) and then pictures to support their understanding.

A similar approach is taken to division where children will share and group objects to understand what division means.

During our fractions learning, children will learn how to find halves and quarters of shapes and quantities.

Scrapbook

Have you seen the Green Class scrapbook? In September, we made a scrapbook all about life in Green Class. It was slowly making its way around the children and then it disappeared. **If you've seen the scrapbook, please could you return it to school** as there are still a few children who would like to take it home.

Topic



During our 'Let's Travel' topic, we will be delving into Geography, Science, Art and RE. The children will create a class book of poems and share their learning during a whole school assembly.

In Geography, we will compare life in and around Johannesburg to life in and around Birmingham. We will use maps, aerial photos and videos to explore new places, discovering physical and human features of each city.

In RE, we will be learning about how to care for others and the world and why it is important. We will learn about this from a religious and non-religious perspective and look at elements such as giving thanks and charity.

In Science, we will be learning about forces such as pushes and pulls.

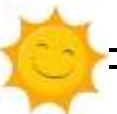
PE will continue weekly with a focus on outdoor games in preparation for Sport's Day (22.5.26 at 9am). The children will learn key skills such as throwing and catching. PE will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Computing and PSHE continue weekly with a focus on keeping safe in Computing and building and maintaining good relationships in PSHE.



Homework

Wow! The standard of homework in Green Class is amazing! **The children's books** are a joy to mark. As always, homework is optional and activities are designed to help you see what your child is up to in the classroom. Reading remains the most important homework.



Bits and Bobs

Snacks – Please send children to school with one healthy morning snack such as fruit (or purchase a tuck shop snack) and a named, empty water bottle.

Enrichment Clubs – Forest school days: Group 1 = Monday Group 2 = Friday. On forest school days, children can come into school in joggers / leggings. Please keep their school tops on with something warm underneath.

PE – Lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please name all items of clothing and shoes. Make sure long hair is tied up and children have socks in their PE bags if they wear tights. We are going to be outside for our PE lessons, however, with the weather being so unpredictable, please make sure children have shorts and joggers.

Sun Safe – Please apply sunscreen in the morning. If your child's sunscreen needs to be reapplied in the day, they will do this independently at school. Please name their sunscreen bottle. Please also send a named sun hat into school.

Thank you for your continuing support. If you wish to speak to us about anything, please do contact the office by telephone or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or catch us at the end of the day for an informal chat.

Best wishes, Mrs Webb, Mrs Hampton and Mrs Thompson