

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome to a new school year...

A very warm welcome to the first Purple Class newsletter of the year! I hope that the summer holidays brought you lots of time for fun and rest and that you are feeling ready for a new term and new school year. We are excited to be teaching Purple Class this year together with Mrs Thompson and Mrs Morgan and we aim to give your child a smooth transition into year 2. We look forward to supporting children academically and socially, particularly with independence and resilience at the start of a new school year.

This newsletter will give you a taster of what we are learning in Purple Class.

TOPIC

Our first topic of the year is 'Long Ago' with a focus on 'The Vikings'. History, art and design technology are the main foundation subjects for this topic. In history, children will be exploring the question, 'Would my life be better in Viking times or the present day?'



To do this, children will explore how and why the Vikings came to Britain and how they lived their day to day lives after settling. Children will question, interpret, analyse and explain different historical sources to help learn about this important period in British history.

In design technology, children will develop cooperation and teamwork skills whilst they create their own simple Viking longhouse model. They will explore stability in structures, generate ideas and create a clear design. When making, measure and fine motor skills will be important to ensure each model is stable.

Art sees a further development of mark making techniques using patterns, motifs and shading to create different tones. The final piece of Viking artwork will combine all of these skills. We look forward to showing you some of our learning at Open Evening on Wednesday 28th September.

For the second half of this half term, we will enjoy a 'Seasons' topic, including a trip to Bishops Wood Centre (details to follow).



Computing, Music, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum' area.

BITS AND PIECES

Each week, your child will bring home a reading book matched to their current reading stage and also a 'library book' which will be a free choice book. The library book will support children in being exposed to a wider range of texts and will be tricky for independent reading. Please enjoy this book together. Stage reading books will normally be changed on a Monday and library books can be changed as they are completed. Each Friday, we will send an ebook which the children will be familiar with. Reading this book will help develop children's fluency. Look out for a letter explaining more about ebooks and logons.

Children will have found out more about clubs this week.

Forest school days are: Group 1 – Tuesday
Group 2 – Wednesday Group 3 - Monday



LITERACY

'The Princess and the White Bear King' is our literacy text for this topic. It is a traditional tale from Northern Europe, the homeland of the Vikings. Children will develop reading comprehension skills whilst exploring details of the text, including finding clues to work out if the bear is a friend or a foe. Children will be taught to identify verbs in the past and present tense, to support them in writing full sentences with capital letters and full stops. They will explore the thoughts and feelings of the Princess in order to write a letter in role and also their own version of the story. Phonics, handwriting and discrete reading sessions will continue daily.

NUMERACY

The start of this term in maths is all about number – counting, place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction. Children will be counting in steps of 2, 5 or 10 and working with number bonds to 10 and 20 (e.g. 1+9, 11+9). They will focus on 1 and 2 digit numbers and how these can be represented in many ways. Spending time securing children's understanding of smaller numbers is crucial for the development of calculation skills later on in the year. The homework sheet details some maths skills that can be practised at home.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A quick checklist for each day in school:

- school book bag
- reading/library book and card
- water bottle, 40p for tuck or healthy snack (no nuts)
- 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 and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks



Please label all belongings with your child's name.

We are looking forward to starting a brand new year with your child. If there is anything you would like to talk to us about, then please come and see one of us after school or leave a message with the office.

Miss Chamberlain and Miss Kuriger ☺