

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome back to the new school year and to Purple Class. (That will be my biggest challenge to make sure I don't continue to call the children 'Green Class' after a number of years in Year 1). I am delighted that I am continuing the children's learning journey with them and without the need to spend time getting to know each other, we can make a flying start with our learning- it's going to be a big year! The current guidance states that the children will sit a national phonics screening check after autumn half term and they will sit SATs tests in May 2021. We have a very low-key approach to these tests (we call them quizzes/special reading) and I am confident that together we can help the children make good progress. This year, more than ever, we would really value your support with reading, spelling and mental maths practise at home. Your support was invaluable during the summer term and for that, we are really grateful. We have altered our Year 2 curriculum this year in response to children missing time in school but also to reflect the key competencies we want to see in our children such as independence. We will have English, Maths and topic lessons daily but also children will have Play and Explore time to allow children time and space to pursue their personal interests, rehearse taught skills, communicate with others and be independent learners.

The classroom looks different from Year 1 to reflect the changes in a Year 2 curriculum and we have added areas such as the woodwork bench, the mindful area, the gardening patch and the reading hut. Resources offered reflect the whole of the National Curriculum for Year 2. Take a look...



### English

We start the half term with a text called 'The first drawing'. As with any English topic our sequence of learning starts with lots of reading, working on skills such as grammar and sentence construction then finally planning and writing. During Our Bronze/Iron Age topic we will be learning to write our own story set in the Iron/Bronze age. Our focus will be on forming a story by sequencing sentences together (which will become more refined as we learn to use different types of punctuation such as ? and !) whilst making sure we have remembered to use capital letters and full stops properly and make sure we make the best word choices we can (e.g. a big dog could be angry, friendly, fierce, playful, spotty). In phonics, we will recap on all the sounds we know and the different ways they are spelt such as ai, ay, a-e, a all make the same sound. Our biggest focus in Year 2 will be on spelling patterns such as knowing rules for when to add s and es to the end of words and endings such as er, est, ing, ed, y.

### Topic

Our first topic of the half term is the Bronze and Iron Age which will follow seamlessly on from our Stone Age topic which the children really enjoyed in the summer term. We will look at how life changed for people living in Britain during those times in history.

Our other focus subjects will be Art and DT. During art we will develop our drawing skills (linked to our English text) by looking carefully at the different marks we can make with different media. We will make marks in response to stories and music and will also draw still life objects from different angles.

In DT we will focus on structures and combine materials to design and make stable Bronze/Iron Age homes.



### Maths

We start the year by developing our understanding of numbers and the value they have up to 100 in terms of how many tens and ones each number has and compare numbers using new symbols (<math><></math>). We will partition 2 digit numbers in different ways and count in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.

We will practise our known mental maths facts and extend ourselves to knowing doubles and halves up to  $20 + 20$  and add and subtract a 1 digit number to/from a 2 digit number.

### Homework

Children are given a sheet of **optional** homework activities which enable you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates. Books will be given out on Fridays and homework returned on a Monday to allow for quarantine time between marking and sending back home.

Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. Reading books are sent home on a Monday and we ask for them to be returned the following Monday to allow for sufficient quarantine time before passing to other families. Please refer to the colour band information guide in your purple popper wallet for ways to support your child at home with reading.

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks**- please send in a healthy morning snack each day such as a piece of fruit or 30p to purchase one from Mrs Barker.

**PE**- This will take place on Wednesdays. It will be outdoor PE. Please can children have jogging bottoms and trainers in their PE kit which will remain in school as normal.

**Outdoor Learning**- (at the Forest School site) will take place on Friday for all of Purple Class. Please send children into school in jogging bottoms on this day each week.

**Labelling**- please label all items of clothing for a quick return to their rightful owner.

Face-to-face communication is a little bit difficult right now but we are still very much here. If there is anything you would like to talk to us about, please email the office in the first instance with FAO Mrs James and I will get back to you via email, telephone or suggest a socially distanced meeting.

Thank you for all your support,

Mrs James, Mrs Moran, Mrs Cain and Miss Chamberlain