

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



Welcome back

We are now half way through the year (and your Purple Class children are half way through the school)! I hope you all had a good half term and that your children are rested and ready to go. Our new topic is Anglo Saxons and we look forward to learning more about how Britain has been shaped today and also taking a trip back in time.

TOPIC



his term our topic lessons are mainly around the subject areas of history and design technology. In history, children will go way back in time to learn all about the Anglo Saxons. We will develop many historical skills as we analyse and interpret sources to learn more about the past.

What was it like to live in Britain during Anglo Saxon times? Children will learn about daily life, who was who in society and also about beliefs and practices in Britain many years ago. How did Anglo Saxon times come to an end? We will analyse some of the changes that arrived with the Vikings.

In DT children will be creating a stable structure – their own Anglo Saxon monastery, to link with our history trip later on in term. They will explore stability in structures and different ways to join and fix materials before completing a design and instructions. Whilst creating their structure, measuring skills and fine motor skills will be developed as well as cooperation and teamwork skills.

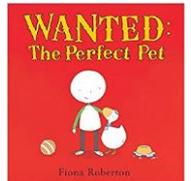


Music lessons will develop singing, composition and performing skills, whilst in computing lessons we will be developing data handling skills. PSHE, P.E. (dance this half term) and Philosophy for Children will continue to be taught regularly.



LITERACY

Literacy this half term will be a mixture of story based writing and also non-fiction topic related learning.



Our class story will be *Wanted: The Perfect Pet* which is a fun story all about friendship.

Children will make inferences about characters' feelings and use events from the story to write different types of text. We will continue to focus on punctuating sentences accurately (using full stops, capital letters, question marks, exclamation marks, commas for a list and apostrophes) as well as developing proof reading and editing skills to improve writing overall. It is amazing how many pieces of writing still do not use capital letters!

Later in the half term, children will write non-fiction texts – a recount and an information text to show off what they have learnt about the Anglo Saxons.

Phonics and handwriting continue, matched to your child's needs.

NUMERACY

In numeracy this term, a lot of our learning consists of applying already taught skills in different contexts. We will begin by securing the understanding of place value and using this to partition numbers in different ways and compare them in equations.

Children will then learn to show an amount in different denominations of coins and also how to link multiplication in the context of money, e.g. $10p+10p+10p+5p=10p \times 3+5p$. We will also be reminding ourselves of telling the time on an analogue clock, before problem solving with all 4 operations. Problems will be 'one step' and then extend to 'multiple step' as appropriate.

Can I again ask for your support in securing mental maths recall at home? The national expectation for year 2 is that children can recall all multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Your children will take the national tables assessment when they are in year 4, so it really makes sense for them to secure tables knowledge year on year.

The other area of maths that requires instant recall is halves (of even numbers) and doubles, up to double 20 (e.g. double 17, halve 34). Flash cards are an excellent tool, but one of our favourites in Purple Class is 'Hit the Button'. Search online for the website or app.



EXTRAS

Please make sure your child has a named water bottle and a healthy snack in school each day.

I would appreciate it if you could check again that all items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name, including shoes and gloves. Thanks ☺

The days for Forest School this half term are unchanged:

Group 3 - Wednesday

Group 4 - Tuesday

Group 5 - Friday

THE PAST TENSE

At the end of last term we learnt about irregular past tense verbs (e.g. 'stood' rather than 'standed', 'bought' rather than 'buyed') – with varying success. Please support your child by repeating back the correct past tense verb if they struggle with this. This helps speech and writing.

Thanks once again for your support. Please feel free to catch me at the end of the school day if there is anything I can help with.

Miss Kuriger ☺