



NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back and a Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas holiday and are well rested and ready and raring to go for the new term. 2017 ended in style, which I am sure you'd agree, with the children's excellent performance of 'The Snowman' where they performed with such confidence and led by example. The children have had a very successful first term and are familiar with routines and expectations and are now ready to be challenged further to develop their academic skills, independence and skills for life. We've already had an exciting first few days back where we delved into the magical worlds of some of our favourite stories and studied some villainous characters including Cruella De Vil. We had a wonderful time at the theatre on Friday an opportunity planned to inspire the children about the arts and literary world. Once again, the children were a credit to yourselves and the school with their impeccable behaviour and respect towards to all those in and around the theatre.

TOPIC

'A Magical World of Stories' is our topic, with a project of the children creating their own magical scrap book where they will record and reflect on their learning journey. The children will be given opportunities throughout all of their learning to develop their understanding of metacognition, enabling them to have a greater awareness of how they learn best, developing their learning independence and learning skills which will not only be invaluable skills to have now but in their later education and working life too.

Art and Science are the main subjects taught during this topic. Through Art, the children will develop their painting skills. They will explore painting on different surfaces and experiment with mixing and applying colour using different brushes. Georgia O'Keefe and Turner will be the artists of focus, looking at how they used water to create different effects.

In Science, the children will be developing their investigative skills such as generating ideas, predicting, observing, recording and drawing conclusions. They will plan and carry out a range of science experiments with a focus on states of matter – solids, liquids and gases. They will investigate changing state, measuring temperatures and develop their understanding of the water cycle.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all of your support with the huge amount of reading your child is doing at home and for their times table practice. It makes a significant difference to their learning and rate of progress. It's the 4 times table over the next few weeks and please continue to work on their targets discussed at last term's parent consultations.

JOB SCHEME

Over the Christmas holidays, some children chose to complete application forms for a Year 4 job where, if successful, they will gain employment and earn Blackwell pounds. Over the next few weeks, the children will be trained in their job and soon we will have fresh bread (made by our bakers) for sale in our tuck shop, sparkly windows (thanks to our window cleaners) and many other keen entrepreneurs busy at it! Your child will need a purse or wallet in school to keep their well-earned money safe.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to me at the end of the school day or if you just want to say hello! I am usually available to speak informally after 3.15p.m. Thank you.
Miss Townsend

LITERACY

During this topic, we will explore some classic villainous characters from famous children's stories such as The Witches and Harry Potter. When reading, they will be given opportunities to discuss words and phrases that the authors use to capture the reader's interest and imagination and to create suspense. Their reading will then support their writing skills where they will experiment with their own words and phrases to grab the reader's interest. We will also develop their sentence writing skills further by using conjunctions to extend and structure sentences in different ways. E.g. *He crept out of the room when no one was looking. When no one was looking, he crept out of the room.*

In phonics, the children will be taught how to use a range of prefixes such as un-, dis-, re-... and how they change the meaning of root words and other spelling patterns such as 'ou' in words such as double, country.... During parent consultations, you were given a list of key words to spell. This half term, the words of focus will be: experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward(s), fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, increase, important, interest, island, knowledge, learn, length, library. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will continue to develop their understanding of fractions. They will add and subtract them, compare them, recognise equivalences i.e. $\frac{2}{10}$ and $\frac{1}{5}$, find fractions of numbers i.e. $\frac{4}{5}$ of 35 and then apply all of these skills when problem solving. They will also develop their understanding of place value by exploring decimal numbers further and will be introduced to hundredths. Developing their understanding of the properties of shapes will be a focus too and they will explore quadrilaterals and be introduced to the different types of triangles. Mental maths will focus on the 4 times table, doubles and halves to 100 and 5000 (multiples of 100), counting on and back through zero (including negative numbers) and using efficient mental methods to multiply and divide numbers by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25.

Take a look back at last half term...



Chinese printing based on The Willow Pattern story



Fraction fun!



Snowy days



Tucking into our delicious Christmas dinner



Music concerts