

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back. We hope you had a restful half term break. We are very proud of the way the children have settled into Year 1 and now that routines and expectations are embedded, we look forward to watching them flourish as learners. It was lovely to meet so many families at our open evening. If you were unable to attend, we have parent consultations next week or Mrs James is always available on Wednesday afternoons to discuss anything informally. We have two exciting topics during this half term which are Festivals around the World and Christmas. Our chosen country for our first topic is Thailand and we will be sharing our learning with other classes to develop our communication and group work skills and to learn about different places around the world.

English

During our Festivals topic, we will be learning to retell the story of the Magic Curry Pot. We will be working hard to develop our understanding of the language used in the story and develop our use of punctuation and grammar. The Year 1 expectations for this includes: capital letters; full stops; ensuring sentences have verbs; the use of adjectives; spelling contractions such as **it's**, **she's**... and switching between plural and singular versions of nouns. We have a 5 week sequence of learning which takes the form of: 1. retelling 2. comprehension 3. grammar, spelling and punctuation and finally 4. planning, writing, checking and editing our story. Daily phonics will focus on sounds being made by a different graphemes e.g. **or** can now also be **aw**. We will



continue to consolidate our letter formation in handwriting each day. During our Christmas topic we will be reading and writing letters and enjoying Christmas stories.

Maths

This half term we will focus on developing their children's understanding of number in terms of comparing them, reading and writing them and understanding their place value. We will continue our work on addition and subtraction and also learn to tell the time to half past the hour. We will be solving logic problems this half term.

Homework

We have been amazed by the standard of homework children have been doing and really value your contribution at home. Homework sheets are **optional** and activities 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 in our Gold Book assembly. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The reading books we now have are designed to help children notice all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your child about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour to develop their independence. They can always come back at the end of the day if you see they have not changed it.

Topic

Geography

This half term we will be researching Thailand further through our topic sessions. We will be looking at images of Thailand and asking questions to find out more about this fascinating country. We will be then be able to compare features of Thailand and the UK. We will also learn the 7 continents of the world and 5 oceans.

RE

We will learn some of the features and practices of Buddhism and the importance of different religious beliefs.



When our Christmas topic starts, we will gain a greater understanding of the story of the birth of Jesus, how it is celebrated and its importance to Christians.

PE

PE will continue on Thursdays and Fridays. We will develop our gymnastic and dance skills and also take part in children's yoga. Please ensure hair is tied up on P.E. days.

Healthy lifestyles

Snacks - Please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop (30p). Also your child needs a named and empty water bottle each day.

Clothing - As the weather changes, please ensure your child has a warm, hooded waterproof coat in school at all times and that additional items such as hats and gloves are named so that stray items can be quickly returned.

Forest School - Clubs remain unchanged so will continue to take place every week as follows:

Group 5- Wednesday, Group 4- Thursday, Group 3- Friday.

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please see us after school or if it is a specific literacy or numeracy enquiry please request an informal meeting with Mrs James for a Wednesday after school.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs James, Mrs Hampton, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Reid