

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



A big warm welcome to everyone! I hope you all had a good summer holiday and are now looking forward to the new academic year where there will be lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child as well as seeing the development of our school building. Mrs James, Mrs Moran and Mrs Marks will also be working in Blue Class and Miss Brown will teach Literacy and Numeracy each day to the Year 3 children and as a team we will work to ensure that your child is happy, works hard and fulfils their academic potential in a classroom where morals and code of conduct are fundamental. I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

TOPIC

We kick start the year with a 'Native American' topic and the children will be working towards planning, setting up and enjoying a Native American camp day (daytime only!). This project will enable the children to plan their own learning, develop co-operation and team work skills and develop resilience in an exciting real life context, supporting the children in being independent learners.

History, D.T. and Art are areas of the curriculum which will be covered during this topic. History will focus on investigation skills where they will explore the different tribes using a range of historical sources, identify some causes and consequences of the European settlers and link their learning back to Stone Age Britain, making comparisons between the two.

Through D.T. the children will explore stable structures and design and make tipis which they will then teach other children how to make during our camp day.

Art will see the children develop their drawing skills. The focus will be on mark making with different media and creating landscape drawings of the Great Plains.

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.



LITERACY

The children will be reading, retelling and writing stories based on Dyan Sheldon's story, The Garden. Year 3 children will be focussing on using adjectives, conjunctions (but, because, so...) and accurate punctuation to develop their sentence writing skills. Year 4 children will be focussing on the use of descriptive language (curious, young Jenny), conjunctions (while, which, although...) and different sentence starts. In phonics the children will be taught how to spell a range of long vowel sounds such as oa/ow/o-e and other spelling conventions such as using apostrophes and plurals.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of 3 and 4 digit numbers and mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. Mental starters for Year 3 children will focus on number bonds to 20 and 100, finding 10 more and less than any 3-digit number and counting in 3s and 4s. Year 4 children will focus on number bonds to 20, 100 and beyond, doubles and halves to 100 and counting on and back in different steps including negative numbers.

BITS AND PIECES

The School Wall is an online resource where your child can access games and activities to challenge their learning further. Your child will be reminded how to access this during the first few weeks of this term and how to be safe when online. Stars are up for grabs for the children to earn and collect and to turn into shields!

Your child will bring home reading books to share with you but we also encourage the children to read books that they enjoy (and are appropriately challenging) from home too. Please find time **each night** to support your child with their reading. The children are expected to read at least 4 times a week at home as regular reading practice makes a **significant** impact on children's learning. They are able to complete their own reading diaries if parents are unable to.



Please name all of your child's clothes, shoes and belongings e.g. water bottle, book bag... to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.

Thank you.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- reading diary
- water bottle
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, **trainers and pumps**, white t-shirt, jumper, 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



If there is anything you are worrying 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