

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back everyone. I hope you had an enjoyable half term break. It's this time of year again when I always ask myself, 'Where has this academic year gone?' Once again it has flown by and we have managed to achieve so much... from our 'China' Newsround family assembly in the autumn term to our recent Tudor Fayre... thanks to the children's motivation and exceptional hard work throughout. But it's not over yet! We have a very busy last half term and I hope to make it an exciting and memorable one for all children so they will take away very fond memories of their time here. We have two exciting topics left (Building a Business and On the Farm) and several events that the children have been looking forward to all year... our residential and the Bromsgrove Bell Boating Regatta.

TOPIC

'Building a Business' is our new topic and the children will be planning their own learning and the skills needed to set up their own catering business. Their first task is to go into the 'Dragon's Den' and persuade Mrs Moss that their business is worth investing in. You will hear more about it as the children develop and promote their ideas and hopefully you will be able to support and enjoy their enterprise!



Through D.T. the children will explore different food treats. They will investigate the variety of food components and processes used to make the products and then develop the skills involved in safe and hygienic cooking practices. This will involve heating, mixing and chemical reactions. Finally, they will design and make treats based on their market research results and the investment provided by Mrs Moss. Posters and adverts will come your way as part of their business venture in the hope you will be their keen customers. Not only will it be the excitement of profit making (hopefully!) as a result of their hard work and decision making the children will experience, but they will also have the opportunity to develop their citizenship and moral and cultural awareness by selecting a charitable cause to give part of their profits to.

Science will also be taught during this topic. **Sound** will be the focus where we will learn how sounds are made, can be changed and travel. Throughout lessons there will be lots of opportunities for the children to develop their scientific skills of asking questions, planning fair tests, predicting, collecting data and making conclusions.

During our PSHE lessons we will focus on 'Changes' in preparation for transition to middle school. Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children will be taught each week too. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

RESIDENTIAL

For many children our residential is something they have been looking forward to for a very long time. One child even said before the holiday they had been waiting for it since they were in Reception! At the same time though, it can be something that for many children they are nervous about. This is totally normal and we explain to the children that it is okay to feel like that and that myself and Mrs Moss will make sure they are happy and safe whilst we are away. We encourage the children to share their thoughts but some children are not always confident to do so. If there is anything you would like me to know, please come and chat to me so that I can help. Before half term, a kit list was sent home. Please involve your child in packing for our adventure to help develop their independence and confidence whilst away.

BITS AND BOBS

To support transition to middle school, independence is an important skill for all children to have and I have been delighted to see many children develop into independent learners and well-organised children this year. Please continue to promote independence at home by giving them more responsibility e.g. remembering what they need to wear and bring on bell-boating days, taking out school letters from their book bags themselves and carrying their belongings to and from school. The children are also reminded that a good quality piece of homework should be handed in every Tuesday.

Those children who have a Blackwell job will be able to spend their money soon. Things available to buy include a play session at the park, wearing non-school uniform to school and hiring a school DVD or knitting doll. Well done to the children for all of their hard work and resilience and I'm sure they will enjoy spending their hard-earned money.

LITERACY

As part of our 'Building a Business' topic, the children will be reading and writing persuasive texts. They will investigate persuasive techniques such as the use of rhetorical questions, emotive language, facts and opinions and quotes.

Sentence level skills will focus on the use of correctly punctuated dialogue and the effective and accurate use of a range of different sentence types and structures.

Handwriting and phonic/spelling sessions will continue, working towards your child's individual targets.

We will be learning to spell the following tricky words this half term:

quarter, question, recent, regular, special, straight, strange, strength, suppose, surprise, therefore, though, although, thought, through, various, weight, woman, women

NUMERACY

In Numeracy the children will be estimating, comparing and measuring mass and capacity. They will develop their understanding of converting measures i.e. $7030g = 7.03kg$ and applying their skills when solving problems. This will be followed by work on statistics focusing on interpreting, constructing and presenting data in the form of bar and line graphs.

Mental starters will focus on recalling the **11 and 12 times tables** by heart, adding and subtracting any 2 2-digit numbers, multiplying and dividing whole and decimal numbers by 10 and 100 and multiplying 1-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers by partitioning i.e. 36×7 (30×7 then 6×7). Please encourage your child to practise their times tables each day.

Take a look back at last half term...



Bell boating along the canal



Our trip to Kenilworth Castle



Our Tudor Fayre

Thank you for your continued support. If there is anything you are wondering 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