

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



**A happy return to you all!** I hope that you all enjoyed the half term week and were able to do some exciting activities. This half term, our learning opportunities will continue to grow and we will have lots of exciting things happening during this busy time of year. Mrs Morgan and I hope to continue developing the children's confidence and independent learning skills. I look forward to discussing your child's learning during parent consultations.

### TOPIC

We are going to start this half term with a Geography topic called 'Special Places around the World'. The focus in Yellow Class will be the beautiful islands of the Caribbean.



We will be investigating how the Caribbean is different from other countries on the planet and the reasons for this. The project for this topic will include a 'class swap' where we will be able to show the other classes our learning. Yellow Class is going to try and create a photo story which will be in the form of a Caribbean fact file and quiz.

Art and Religious Education are other areas of the curriculum taught during this topic. Through Art the children will develop their painting skills by experimenting with different tones of colour and learning how to change the thickness of a paint brush. Sean Scully is one of the artists that we will discuss and the children will have the chance to explore his work.

Religious Education will focus on Christianity, and specifically, being a Catholic. They will learn about the set of beliefs that Catholics hold and how these are expressed.

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

As a class, we will read and break down parts of a non-chronological report about the 'The Caribbean' which will help to develop sentence structure by adding more information. The children will then have the chance to create their own report, using headings and subheadings, and using paragraphs to split up different topics. The children will have regular handwriting sessions to help continually develop their cursive handwriting to assist them in becoming fluent writers.

In phonics the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding prefixes mis- and re-. Different learning strategies will also be introduced and this will be available in their homework book for guidance. We will also practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:  
*continue, decide describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, Earth, eight, eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward, fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide, heard.*

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy children will continue to take part in activities which will assist in developing their understanding of 2 and 3 digit numbers. They will also move on to multiplication and division by learning strategies to help solve problems. Mental starters will focus on counting in 3s, 4s and 10s, multiplying by 10 and 100 and inverse operations. We need to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order. **Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too!**



### CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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

- school book bag
- home reading card
- 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

Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.



### BITS AND PIECES

As the weather starts to become colder, children need to have a hooded, waterproof jacket in school with them. In addition, please make sure that the coat, along with other items of clothing have names clearly labelled.

We have already had incidents of lost clothing and names will help to make sure that they get back to the rightful owner.

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 to help foster a love of reading. Please find time **each night** to support your child with their reading.

Forest School for children in Yellow Class will still take place on Monday (groups 7 and 8) or Tuesday (group 6) this term.  
Many thanks.



I am really enjoying my first term at Blackwell and it is clear to see just how happy your children are and how enthusiastic they are to learn. Please catch me at the end of the day if you have any questions.

Thank you. *Miss Phipps*