

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School - Purple Class

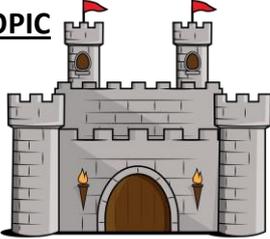


### Welcome back...

Welcome to a new term in Purple Class. We ended spring term on a high note with a fantastic Easter coffee morning. Last term the children achieved so much in the class in terms of development in literacy, numeracy, art, history and many other subject areas – I hope they managed a good rest over the Easter break. We are back again now learning all about 'Castles and Dragons'. I have some great learning opportunities planned so here's to a super start to the summer term 2018.



### TOPIC



Whizz back in time...all the way back to medieval times when castles were all the rage. In topic lessons we'll examine historical sources to learn more about these castles.

Then further forward in time we'll see how one of the most famous families in English history made these castles their homes - Henry Tudor and his descendants. Using primary and secondary sources, children will learn more about these famous historical figures and about what life was like for rich and poor in Tudor times. Of course, our visit to one of Elizabeth I's castles, will help us a lot with our learning...let's hope it doesn't rain!

In Design Technology children will be making their own miniature tapestries. Of course we'll learn more about different types of stitches and sewing skills as well as trying out our own designs too. We look forward to sharing our learning with you at the Tudor Fayre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Towards the end of term, we will spend some time learning about materials in science. Are all metals hard? Is wood always heavy? Children will develop their own way of investigating to answer some of these questions.

Ongoing areas of learning are PSHE (relationships), computing (communicating), Music, and Philosophy. Our little learners will be very busy indeed.



### PE and CLUBS

Now the weather is warming up a little, we will be heading outside for PE more and more. Please make sure your child has trainers as part of their PE kits and girls who wear tights need a pair of socks in their PE kits too – labelled with names as ever please.

Children will find out more about the timetable for clubs during the first week back, but you may want to know **forest school** days: **1-Mon, 2-Tues, 3-Wed, 4-Thurs, 5-Fri**

### THE PAST TENSE

At the end of last term we learnt about irregular past tense verbs (e.g. 'stood' rather than 'standed', 'bought' rather than 'buyed') – with varying success. Please support your child by repeating back the correct past tense verb if they struggle with this. This helps speech and writing.

### LITERACY

To begin with this term we will read 'The Tale of the Castle Mice' by Michael Bond. We will make predictions about the story and use imagination to put ourselves in the shoes of both the castle mice and the earl as we write letters. We will aim to use a range of conjunctions (e.g. and, or, if, when) and also accurate punctuation (e.g. . ! ? , ').

We will then fly into some descriptive writing, using the book 'Tell Me a Dragon' as a stimulus. This wonderfully illustrated book will help us to further develop our understanding of how nouns and adjectives word together to create expanded noun phrases (e.g. rough, scaly skin) and we'll get our imaginations going as we create our own dragons.

Spelling strategies continue to be taught in phonics sessions and throughout literacy, and reading skills and strategies are taught throughout the curriculum.



### NUMERACY

To begin the term children will link last term's division learning to fractions and see how fractions apply to shapes, groups and quantities. Then we will get to grips with some measures work. Firstly we will explore measuring and calculating with length and height and then we will look at capacity and mass also. Children will be taught to read scales in divisions of 1, 2, 5 and 10 where all the numbers on the scale are given, but also where not all divisions are labelled.

Geometry is also covered this term with the properties of 2D and 3D shapes recalled and used to find similarities and differences between shapes. Children will be taught to recognise shapes from pictures and objects also.

Of course we focus on the application of our maths knowledge throughout each topic taught so children will be encouraged to choose the area of maths they need to solve different problems with either one step or more than one step.



As always, thank you for all your continued support at home. Please speak to me at the end of the day if there is anything you wish to discuss.  
Miss Kuriger ☺