

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back after the Easter holidays!** I hope you have all enjoyed the break and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. Last term was very successful with the children continuing to work hard and enthusiastically and it is a delight to see the progress they are making not only with their academic skills but their social and independence skills too. We are now in our final term which is always a busy one. Transition work will be an important aspect and I will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school. I look forward to lots of new learning and experiences during this term... Kenilworth Castle trip, Malvern, bell-boating... to name just a few!



### TOPIC

'Castles' is our new topic with History, D.T and Science being the main subjects taught. The children will be working collaboratively and will plan and set up a Tudor Festival to which you are invited during the morning of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May (more information to come). Our skills focus is on being creative and motivated learners and I'm sure this topic and project will help foster such skills.

The History focus during this topic is on Kenilworth Castle and Tudor times. The children will be encouraged to ask historical questions and investigate how and why Kenilworth Castle has changed over time. The life of Queen Elizabeth I will be explored and all of this learning will be shared with you during our Tudor Festival.

In D.T. the children will be exploring materials and how they can be joined. They will design and makes some furry friends which you may be able to spot if you are brave enough to enter our dungeon during the festival!

Electricity is our focus in Science where the children will ask questions, investigate and draw conclusions about circuits. They will learn about the uses and benefits of electricity, investigate circuit construction, conductors, insulators and switches.

PSHE, 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.

### LITERACY

During the first part of this topic, the children will be reading and writing reports about castles. They will explore different presentational features and will continue to practise using conjunctions to write extended sentences and structure sentences in different ways. During the second part of this topic, we will be looking at playscripts from A Midsummer Night's Dream and experimenting with converting the scripts into short stories. Again, you'll be able to share this learning with your child during the Tudor Festival. The children continually work towards their personal writing targets and it is good to see many children nearly achieving their 'Target Champion' certificate!

In phonics we will be focusing on the use of apostrophes for possession (regular and irregular plural nouns) and homophones and near homophones such as great/grate, piece/peace, quiet/quite...

This half term, the words of focus will be: occasion, occasionally, often, opposite, ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess, possession, potatoes, possible, pressure, probably, promise, purpose, quarter, question, recent and regular. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too.

Take a look back at some of our fantastic art linked to Baghdad 900AD...



### YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.

### BELL BOATING

Please ensure that your child has the correct clothing and equipment during our bell boating days (see separate letters and school website). Jogging bottoms and trainers can be worn to school on these days. If the children could try and organise themselves on these days by packing their own bags, knowing what clothes to wear/bring (with a sneaky check from you afterwards) etc., it will develop their independence and particularly help in preparation for middle school. Thank you.

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will be consolidating and developing their use of mental and written calculations for addition and subtraction and applying these skills when solving multistep problems. We will be developing their understanding and use of decimals and fractions further and look to recognise equivalents of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Mental maths will focus on recalling multiplication and division facts for the 7 times table, finding sums and differences of pairs of multiples of 10, 100 and 1000s, recognising all multiples up to  $10 \times 10$  and doubling and halving multiples of 100 up to 5,000.

Final thanks go to all grown-ups for your continued support. The additional work with reading, spelling of key words and maths including telling the time and times table practice which is being done at home is making a significant difference to their learning and progress. It is greatly appreciated. It was lovely to chat to you about your child's learning and behaviour at parent consultations but if there is anything further you would like to ask or speak to me about, I am usually available to speak informally after 3.15p.m. Thank you.