

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to the new school year and welcome to Green Class. We hope you have had a lovely summer break filled with lots of rest and time together. This term is well known for being a hard term for children as they enter Year 1 because the curriculum changes and generally schools adopt a more formal approach to learning. However, as a collaboration (Blackwell, Millfields and Charford First Schools) we have taken the decision to mirror the excellent practice from Early Years into Year 1. This follows research and extensive training. Children will now be accessing the National Curriculum through taught lessons, focus groups and continuous provision. (Play and explore time) This approach will make the transition more manageable for children and continue to develop their positive attitude towards their learning. We start the half term with two exciting topics: Victorians and Planet Earth, during which there are opportunities to meet the Green Class team. We look forward to working with all of our Green Class families and having a really successful year with the children.

### Literacy

To start the half term we will be reading Beatrix Potter's story 'The tale of Peter Rabbit'. We will be reading and talking first and will then write our own sentences. We will focus on the structure of a sentence: capital letter, sounding out words, having a verb, full stop and checking it makes sense.

In phonics we will revisit all taught phonemes and learn alternate graphemes (way a sound is written) for them e.g. children have learnt p/**ai**/n and will now learn p/**l**/**ay**.

Daily handwriting takes play with a varied mixture of Writedance, practical fine motor activities such as cotton bud painting and cursive letter formation. To develop children's communication skills they will work daily with a learning partner on practical or discussion tasks. These are chosen at random and children will work with that person for the duration of the topic.

### Topic

All national curriculum subjects are explored through Continuous Provision (Play and Explore) daily, but below are the focuses for our topic lessons:

We start the half term with a history focus. We will be looking at Victorian childhood and comparing it to that of our own. We will be developing our investigation skills using a variety of sources such as books, photographs, and painting.

In Science, the children will learn about seasonal changes and use correct terminology such as deciduous trees. We will be developing our outdoor planting area to help children to name plants including their parts.

In Art we will be developing our drawing skills to create some Beatrix Potter inspired artwork for you to view at our open evening on 26.9.18.



### Numeracy

We have a busy half term for the mathematicians of Green Class. We will start the half term by looking at numbers and we will be counting, reading, writing and comparing numbers. We will then work through stages of addition and subtraction which will include: using concrete objects, calculating mentally, using written methods and then problem solving. This year is about children developing fluency in maths and knowing everything about numbers 0-20.



### Homework

Children are given a sheet of **optional** homework activities which enable you to see the type of learning taking place in the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates.

Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The reading books we have are designed to help children notice all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour. (We will support them with this initially and you can always send them back in at the end of the day) Keywords will be accessed during continuous provision rather than being sent home.

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks**- please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. (30p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**PE**- takes place on a Tuesday. Please tie up long hair.

**Forest School**- this takes place every week as follows:

**Group 5- Wednesday, Group 4- Thursday, Group 3-**

**Friday.** Children all know their club numbers but if they cannot remember then please ask a member of the Green Class team. On Forest School days, children can come to school dressed in jogging bottoms and their usual school top. It is a good idea to send in a warm pair of socks on Forest School days or they can stay in PE bags. We have all necessary waterproofs but please make sure we have a pair of named wellington boots in school which still fit!

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please see us after school or if it is a specific concern please request an informal meeting with Mrs James in a morning or after school on Wednesdays.

Thanks you for your support,  
Mrs James and Miss Turner