

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 renowned for being a hard term for children as they enter Year 1. The curriculum changes to a less play based and more formal approach to learning than that which they experienced in Year R. It is a natural progression for all children and we will make it a gradual and manageable transition for all. We start the half term with 2 exciting topics: Seasons/scarecrows and Vikings, 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 Julia Donaldson's story 'The Scarecrows' Wedding'. We will be doing lots of reading and storytelling work first and will then write our own sentences. We will focus on the structure of a sentence: capital letter, sounding out words, including a verb, finishing with a 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.

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 within the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates in our Gold Book assembly.

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 now 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 if they have not changed it or it is the wrong colour.)

Topic

We start the half term with DT where children will be using skills such as designing, joining and cutting to make an individual scarecrow which will be displayed at our own Blackwell Scarecrow Festival. (More details to follow.) We will also be making some class scarecrows and would appreciate any old clothes, accessories or straw to help. They can be returned after the event.

In Geography, children will be learning about the weather and how to use sources such as the internet to predict it.

In Science, the children will learn about seasonal changes and using correct terminology such as deciduous trees.

During our Viking topic, our focus subjects will be History and Art. To inspire us, we will be going on a trip to visit a longship in the woods.

Music, PSHE, Computing and PE continue throughout the year weekly. PE for this half term is dance.



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

PE- takes place each week. Please tie up long hair and remove earrings.

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 literacy or numeracy concern please request an informal meeting with Mrs James in a morning or after school on Wednesdays.

Thanks you for your support,
Mrs James, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Reid