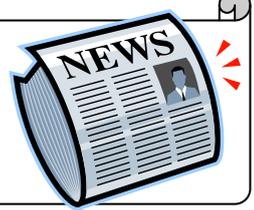


NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



Welcome back



I hope you all had a good Christmas break and have rested well. A big well done to all the children for your performance at the end of last term. Everyone was so impressed at how quickly you managed to learn the songs and dances for the Christmas performance. If you bought a DVD, I hope you managed to spot yourself and relive the moment! 2018 is here already and we're back and excited to get going with lots of new learning.

TOPIC

This term our topic is 'Dog Tales'. Of course we begin the term with a visit to see 101 Dalmatians, so I thought we'd continue the doggy theme all the way through our story topic. Our two main subjects in topic lessons are art and science.

In art, children will be learning how to create 3D artwork using clay. After researching and looking at dog breeds and designs, children will develop, test and improve modelling skills (of the playdough and clay variety) and explore ways to create texture using clay. To apply their skills children will then create a 3D clay tile of their own dog design before colour mixing and painting. You will see our finished creations later in the term.

In science, our area of learning is biology where we explore animals including humans. There's a lot of national curriculum content to explore during this topic. We'll describe and compare different animals, explore how food chains work, classify animals and learn more about how to stay healthy and fit. A lot of this topic overlaps into PSHE where we'll learn about healthy choices we can make for ourselves.

Music lessons will develop singing, composition and performing skills, whilst in computing lessons we will be 'finding things out' using search engines and website in line with e-safety guidelines. PSHE, P.E and Philosophy for Children will continue to be taught regularly.



Purple class is having a dance coach visit this half term to help us get ready for an interschool dance festival.

CLUBS

Children engaged really well in clubs last term and it was great to see how proud they all were of their sporting, sewing and creative achievements.

Children will find out more about clubs during the first week back, but parents may wish to note days for Forest School:

Group 3 - Friday
Group 5 - Wednesday

Group 4 - Thursday



OUR CLASS PROJECT

As you know, at Blackwell we like to have a class project for each main topic, which much of our learning feeds into and gives a greater purpose to our learning. For this topic, Purple class are going to be fundraising for a very special purpose. As a school, we would like a pet...or better still, pets! There are so many benefits to having furry friends, and whilst we cannot stretch to a dog (much to Miss Townsend's dismay), Mrs Moran and I are going to take on the challenge of guinea pigs! We have both had these furry friends for many years and they are just delightful. So Purple Class, it is our challenge to learn how to look after guineas and to raise some money to help welcome our new pals. Details will follow. ☺

LITERACY

Some of my favourites again to take me back to my childhood – we'll be meeting a lot of Hairy Maclary and his friends as well as Detective Dog Nell, one of Julia Donaldson's less well-known creations.



Whilst reading, we'll get stuck into identifying rhymes and linking them to spelling patterns, finding great language choices and gathering our own.

Continuing from last term, children will further develop their ability to write different types of sentence (statement, command, exclamation and question), with or without conjunctions, and will focus on ensuring there is perfect punctuation and super sense.

To consolidate their learning, children will plan, write, edit and present their own dog story. Phonics and handwriting continue, pitched to match your child's needs.

NUMERACY

We will start 2018 with fractions. Everything with fractions is presented in a visual way to aid understanding at every stage. The main area of fractions learning will involve identifying fractions of a shape and of a group (of objects or shapes). We will link fractions learning to our division learning.

Following this, we will consolidate and extend mental and written methods of adding and subtracting in different contexts, and towards the end of the half term, I plan on teaching the same with multiplication and division.

In mental and oral starters, we continue to recall number facts – such as place value of 2 digit numbers, multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times table as well as recalling number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 fluently. Halves and doubles will also be taught.

Later in term, Purple Class will be learning more about telling the time on an analogue clock. Many children find this very tricky and so school would value your support in helping your child learn to tell the time on an analogue clock (not digital). Children will revisit telling the time to the nearest hour then half hour, before moving on to telling the time to the nearest quarter of an hour and then to the nearest 5 minute interval. Regularly sharing the time with your child throughout the week is a good way of supporting their learning.

Thanks once again for your support. Please feel free to catch me at the end of the school day if there is anything you wish to discuss.
Miss Kuriger ☺