

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome back

Hello and welcome back to a new half term in Purple Class. Last half term was a super start to the year and already I can see lots of progress in the children's learning. We've managed a Scarecrow Festival and a Viking visit so far...and there's lots more excitement to come. I am now recognising the faces of parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties...apologies if I'm not quite there with you yet.

This term will be busy as ever...take a look at some of the learning I've been busy planning.

TOPIC

Here we go for another exciting topic – 'Festivals Around the World'. Before we think more about Christmas (certainly not yet!) we'll be exploring different festivals and celebrations that take place near and far.

In Geography we will pin point different festivals around the world to help us identify global features like continents, oceans and the equator. Then, using large scale maps and the internet, children will research the climate of different countries and link this to their location in relation to the equator and the poles. This will help us to know what to pack for an adventure to one of these countries. Using our new knowledge, we will be able to write postcards back home from our imaginary travels and the festivals we have seen.

In R.E. this half term we will focus our learning around one of the world's main religions – Buddhism. The children will learn about the origins of the religion, significant people, key aspects of religious belief and the ways these beliefs are shown through festivals and celebrations. We will delve into some stories from Buddhism to see what we can learn about life ourselves. There will be plenty of time to reflect on our own opinions.

Later, children will develop printing skills begun in Year 1 through art lessons. They will explore the use of positive and negative stencils as well as the use of clay relief blocks. If all goes well (printing is tricky!), you will see their printed masterpieces on their calendars to take home at the end of this term.

PSHE, Music, Computing, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.



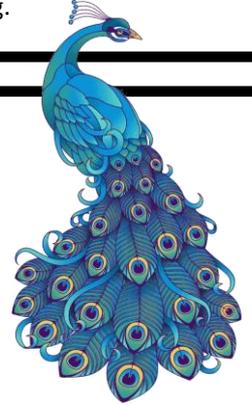
EXTRAS

Please can you check that your child's clothing is labelled (sometimes names wash out), including hats and gloves at this time of year. It really does allow us to solve mix ups quickly and get on with learning. Also, girls who wear tights to school will need a pair of socks in their P.E. bags for when we change for sport.

To help us look after all of the children in school well, please can I ask that **no snacks or lunch box items** are brought into school that **contain nuts**. This way we can all stay happy and healthy. Thanks.

LITERACY

In literacy, the children will be reading and exploring traditional Buddhist stories (Jataka tales) which are often shared at Buddhist celebrations. The main story we will explore is called 'The Proud Peacock'.



After reading to explore the themes, meanings and morals of the story, children will focus on writing clear full sentences using different punctuation as well as extending sentences using a variety of conjunctions (e.g. and, or, but, if, that, because, when). To add interest to our writing we will explore creating expanded noun phrases using adjectives (e.g. beautiful, golden mallard). Towards the end of the topic we will write, edit and present our own stories.

Phonics, spelling, handwriting and reading sessions will continue each week, based upon your child's own needs.

NUMERACY

Throughout this term, children will continue to develop speedy number bond recall (e.g. 4+6, 14+6 etc.) and be taught how to use number bonds to help with addition and subtraction both mentally and through informal written methods.

In mental maths we will also be striving to become fluent in recalling halves and doubles up to double 20. These are essential in Year 2 and beyond and some help with this at home would be appreciated.

Later in the term, we will begin to link counting patterns more formally to multiplication and division.

Recommended resource – use 10p and 1p coins to help understand place value further. They are a great visual support for adding and subtracting multiples of 10.



I look forward to meeting you more formally at parent consultation meetings soon, but of course you are very welcome to catch me at the end of the day any day.

Thank you for your support. Miss Kuriger ©