

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Wow! Where does time go? I can't believe that we are half way through the year already. I hope you have had a good half term and we look forward to the last part of the Spring term in Green Class. The children worked incredibly hard last half term and are making good progress across all subject areas. They put on a super performance during our class assembly as part of our bears topic and learned lots about the Hindu faith. During this half term we have two exciting topics: Far Away Lands and Easter. We look forward to meeting with you during Parent Consultations to discuss your child's progress.

English

During our topic Far Away Lands we will be using the text 'The Great Pet Sale' by Mick Inkpen. During the story we are introduced to a variety of animals from puffins to penguins and salamanders to skunks. We will carry out research into where the animals live and work on our descriptive writing using good sentences. The book lends itself excellently to our work in Maths on money.

During our Easter topic, children will learn to write non-fiction texts based on customs and practices which take place during the Christian festival.

In phonics we will continue to work on alternative pronunciations for graphemes already known for example the way i can make the sound in ink and can say its name as in the word child. Children will take part in a national phonics check during the summer term. This checks children's ability to segment (split words into phonemes) and blend. This check is there for all Year 1 children nationally and is there to check that staff in school teach the correct skills. There is no need for you to do anything other than normal regular reading at home with your child in preparation for this.



Maths

This half term we will continue to develop our understanding of numbers and ability to calculate with them in a variety of ways. We do not learn formal times tables in Year 1 but embed the skills children need so that they understand what multiplication is about.

We will also be introduced to money, length and height as units of measure and will use measuring tools such as trundle wheels and rulers and develop our recording skills to record our observations. There will be lots of shop role play too.



Homework

Homework for the term is sent home on a sheet to give you some ideas of activities which will support the children's learning during the half term. It remains optional therefore children need to ensure it is handed in by Wednesday to be marked and certificates written for Friday. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week.

Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home and vary what they read. For example, ask children to read menus, signs, toy instructions etc. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour which is indicated by the coloured card in their bookbags. They can always come back at the end of the day if you see they have not changed it.

Topic

During this topic we will be using Geographical language and simple map skills. We will locate Baghdad on a map of the world and revise continents and oceans. We will also be creating our own simple maps and introducing how to include a simple key.

In History we will look at how the ancient city of Baghdad was designed, what it might have looked like and how it has changed. We will create simple timelines and use historical stories to learn more about significant people from the past. We will learn about Semiramis, Queen of Babylon and make links to our modern day Queen.

PE will focus on Dance and Yoga. We will be learning 'Pet Poses' in yoga and start sequencing moves together. We will also be developing our dance skills.

In computing we will be programming Beebots around floor maps which we create and using paint programs to link with our art.



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.

Clothing-please can all hats and gloves be labelled as we are ending up with lots of strays.

Forest School- Clubs remain unchanged so will continue to take place every week as follows:

Group 5- Wednesday, Group 4- Thursday, Group 3- Friday On these days it is essential that children wear warm jogging bottoms and socks as waterproof rousers do not provided the warmth needed on cold days.

Bookbags- Please avoid multiple keyrings on bookbags to help us enable drawers to close.

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

Thanks you for your support,

Mrs James, Mrs Hampton, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Reid