

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Happy New Year! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and a well-deserved break. The children worked incredibly hard last term and I think you'll agree, they did everyone proud in our Christmas production. Now the routines and expectations of Year 1 are embedded we are well placed to help the children make a great deal of progress this term. We are excited by our two topics this term which are; The wonderful world of bears and Hinduism. During our bears topic we will be working towards our class assembly which we will perform on Wednesday 25th January at 8.45am in the hall.

### English

We started our topic with a fantastic trip to Warwick Art's Centre to see Michael Rosen's 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. We will use this to stimulate our own story writing. We will learn skills of reading, punctuating and using grammar when writing to produce our own retell of the story. During our punctuation and grammar work, we will have a large focus on accurate use of capital letters and full stops. The story also lends itself brilliantly to exploring using adjectives to describe different weathers. In phonics, we will continue to learn alternative graphemes for known sounds which include split digraphs such as a-e as in cake and o-e as in bone. Handwriting continues daily with a focus on accurate letter joins. At home, please exploit any natural opportunities for writing such as letters, cards or lists. Time spent on practising key words is hugely beneficial.



### Topic

In Science we will be looking at materials. We will name everyday materials including wood, plastic, glass and metal. To extend this further the children will distinguish an object by the materials from which it is made. We will then apply our knowledge to make a coat for a bear. In Art we will be linking our learning to our Bear Hunt story and create a montage of story settings using drawing skills and painting techniques. During our Hinduism topic we will be focusing on describing the importance of Hindu beliefs and exploring some Hindu stories, making links to the beliefs that underline them.



### Maths

This half term we will further develop the children's understanding of number and how to compare and order numbers and use representations of numbers to prove their thinking. For example: which is larger 34 or 43? Prove it by using blocks or an abacus. Children will learn to write numbers 1-20 in words as well as numerals. We will also begin to understand the basics of multiplication and division. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and division as sharing or grouping. We will do this by using objects and pictorial representations to ensure children understand what they are doing before they start rote learning formal times tables.

### Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books so that we can celebrate and share their successes.

Homework remains **optional** and activities are designed to help 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. There is huge value in enjoying stories together and it doesn't always have to be the children that do the reading. Please read often and question children to ensure they have understood what they have read/heard and therefore see reading as a pleasure and not just a process. Encourage them to ask questions too.

Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour.

### 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-** As the weather is so interchangeable, please ensure children have a warm, waterproof coat in school at all times and that all hats, gloves and scarves etc are named.

**Forest School-** This takes place weekly as follows:  
**Group 5- Wednesday, Group 4- Thursday, Group 3- Friday.**

**PE and sports club-** children take part in sports lessons several times a week, please make sure they have jogging bottoms and outdoor shoes in school.

**Polite request-** please could children refrain from having multiple, bulky keyrings and large snack pots in bookbags as we are having issues with drawers not closing. Thank you.

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 Hampton, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Reid