

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back! We can't believe we are writing the last newsletter of the year: it doesn't seem long since we were welcoming the children into Green Class. They have grown in so many ways this year and are very well placed to continue their learning journey. Whilst we will begin to talk to and support the children with their transition into Purple Class, we have still got 2 exciting topics left this half term: Building a Business and On the Farm. There will be lots of exciting family events to look forward to including the opening of Green Class's Garden Centre, the summer fair and our re-scheduled sports morning.

English

What a start to the topic we had! Children developed their speaking and listening skills as they were treated to parent visitors who all have jobs with STEM subjects. Our aim was to present children with role models from the world of work and encourage them to aspire high. Children asked brilliant questions and were thoroughly enthused as they started to think about their own careers and building our business.

Children will also work on their presenting skills to prepare a pitch to enter the dragon's den with (aka Mrs Moss's office). They will need to ask Mrs Moss for how much money they think they will need to open their business.

Oracy always forms the basis for our written work but we are starting the half term by working on our sentence levels skills to ensure that these are all secure before leaving Year 1. We will write recounts of our planting by writing sentences using accurate capital letters, full stops, adjectives and correct spelling of keywords and others spelled using phonics. We will also be reading Jack and the Beanstalk and using our retelling to aid our story writing.

Phonics continues daily where children will continue to read real and alien words in preparation for their national phonics screening check which takes place in June. During our 'On the Farm' topic we will write some poems/riddles about animals to develop our skills in other genres.

Maths

We start the half term with consolidation of our number work. It is not necessary for the children to rote count to large numbers: it is important that they know everything about numbers 0-20 including all number bonds, addition and subtraction facts (including when the numbers are presented in different orders e.g. $20 = 17 + \square$), what it looks like in varying forms and be able to apply their knowledge to money and measures. Money will form an important aspect of our business as children will do all the pricing, calculating and handling the money in our garden centre. We will also learn about capacity and volume and telling the time to half an hour.

Homework

Thank you for all your efforts with homework. Please remind children to hand it in once done so we can celebrate their efforts. Homework sheets remain **optional** but activities 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 assembly. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. We are noticing a slight decline in the frequency of children reading at home. Please read little but often with your children and also take the opportunity to read to them. Fluency is a huge focus for us as a school. This can be encouraged by modelling it to children but also encouraging them to read the sentence again fluently once they have worked out unfamiliar words. The aim for Year 1 is for children to be reading over 50 words per minute. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour. They can always come back at the end of the day if you see they have not changed it. Also please value the importance of you reading to your child as well to help expose them to rich vocabulary.

Topic

We start the half term by building or should we say 'growing a business' Green Class has decided that they would like to open a pop-up garden centre complete with refreshment stall. Look out for invitations in bookbags. 'Fresh' Garden Centre paid us a visit this week to help with our green finger skills and there are lots of budding gardeners in the class.

Science – Our science learning is all about plants and animals this half term. We will be naming common flowers both wild and grown for production. We will also look at the structure of plants and get very hands on growing plants for our business. We will learn key terms such as evergreen and deciduous and categorise trees. In our learning about animals, we will name and sort animals according to their characteristics and use terms such as carnivores and omnivores.

DT – we will be creating tasty, healthy treats to sell at our garden centre. We will be disassembling products, tasting components and designing and making our own. We will learn where foods come from and learn to make healthy/nutritional choices. We will use our maths skills to collect the data for our preferences and the winning designs will be available at our garden centre.

Music- during our music lessons we will use our voices to create a jingle for our business.



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) **It is vital that children have a water bottle in school.**

Clothing- please send the children to school with sun hats with names in and sun cream applied.

Forest School- takes place as follows:

Group 1- Monday, Group 2- Tuesday, Group 3- Wednesday, Group 4-Thursday, Group 5- Friday

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

Thank you for your support,

Mrs James, Mrs Hampton, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Reid