

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome to the final edition of Green Class news for this year. We hope you had an enjoyable half term and the children managed to have lots of rest and play. The time has just flown and the children have matured before our eyes into motivated, independent learners. There were several highlights from the past half term but we particularly enjoyed our trip to the Black Country Living Museum and our sports morning. To end the year, we have two very exciting topics. We start with a Circus topic and will then move on to a Creepy Crawlies topic.



Literacy

We will be using this half term to refine children's skills as writers. During our Circus topic we will be writing correctly punctuated sentences with adjectives and conjunctions. Our inspiration will come from the story Paddington Bear at the Circus. We will be focusing on spelling of keywords and accurately using contractions such as don't, won't and she's. We are using spoken language to help children's understanding of tense for example children in Year 1 often say "We done this" "He sawed a cat" "I writted" Please help us by modelling correct English back to the children as this will help them with their writing. During our Creepy Crawley topic we will be writing some non-fiction texts linked to our research. Children will sit the national phonics test in June which will be a very informal reading activity 1:1 with Mrs Moss or myself. You will be informed of results in your child's end of year report.

Numeracy

We start the half term with developing our calculation skills across the 4 areas of calculation. Children are becoming skilled at using a number line for addition and subtraction but with multiplication and division we learn how to visually represent our thinking as learning times tables by rote learning does not build the best foundations for children's understanding of maths. We work hard to ensure children can apply their thinking to puzzles, problems and in a variety of contexts to ensure children have embedded skills such as applying their counting in 2, 5, and 10s to money and measures. We will be measuring, comparing and calculating with capacity and time this half term.

Homework

Children are given a sheet of **optional** homework activities which 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 our Gold Book assembly. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The new reading books are really helping the children to notice all the phonic patterns learned in class, please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Please remind your child to change their book and check it is the right colour.

Topic

SCIENCE – During our Circus topic, we will learn how forces can speed things up, slow them down or make them change direction.

During our Creepy Crawlies topic, we will focus on recognizing, naming and describing a range of common animals. We will learn about the similarities and differences between humans and other animals and find out where a variety of animals can be found.

ART- Collage skills are the art skills that we will focus on during our Circus topic. We will create natural lines and recreate them using a range of materials in our art sketch book. Artists Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Long will give us inspiration for our work which will culminate in a nest building activity in the Forest School and a papier mache nest in the classroom.

In our Creepy Crawlies topic. We will develop 3D sculpture using clay to create a saleworthy piece of art for the Summer Fair.

COMPUTING – We will continue to develop our coding skills as well as logging on to netbooks, opening programmes and using the keyboard.

Healthy lifestyles

Snacks- thank you for your support with sending children to school with healthy snacks. Fruit is always the best option.

Warm weather- when the weather is warm, please send children to school with sun cream applied and a hat. A hat can always be left in your child's PE if you prefer one to be left in school.

PE and Forest School- In PE we will be developing skills in dance as we use both Circus and Creepy Crawlies themes to create sequences of movements that we can repeat in a shared dance.

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.

Thanks for your continued support,

Mrs James, Mrs Edney and Mrs Marks