

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



Welcome back

We are now half way through the year (and your Purple Class children are half way through the school)! We ended the term well with an excellent performance at the dance festival where the children really did have to be brave. They all rose to the challenge of performing on stage in front of a very large audience, and they were the youngest there. Well done Purple Class.

Read on to find out about our new topic 'Long Ago, Far Away', with a focus on life in the early Islamic Empire – interesting stuff!

TOPIC

This term our topic lessons are mainly around the subject areas of history, geography and art.

In history children will go way back in time to learn all about early Islamic civilization. This fascinating historical period will see the beginnings of Islam and its spread across the Middle East and North Africa, the rise and fall of the important city of Baghdad and the changes that all of this brought to life across the world. As historians, children will examine many different historical sources to discover for themselves how life then is different to their own experiences now.

In geography children will continue to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of major global features such as continents, oceans and climate zones. They will study and interpret different maps to learn about the country of Iraq and how it compares to other places across the world. Children will be able to get to grips with statistics to further compare places.

Art lessons will focus on collage skills this term, with inspiration from the famous artists Henri Matisse and Bridget Riley.

Music lessons will develop singing, composition and performing skills, whilst in computing lessons we will be developing data handling skills. PSHE, P.E. and Philosophy for Children will continue to be taught regularly.



LITERACY

Lots of our literacy across this topic will be taught through the Middle Eastern story of 'The Golden Sandal'. As children read and understand the text they will recognise and compare the tale to the traditional Cinderella story and use inference to develop an understanding of the feelings of different characters throughout. They will write a diary entry, a book review and their own version of the story during this topic, to apply their writing skills.



The focus continues on accurate punctuation of different types (now looking at apostrophes for possession and omission as well as commas for a list) and the consistent use of capital letters. It is amazing how many pieces of writing still do not use capital letters! We are developing proof reading and editing skills to improve writing overall.

Phonics and handwriting continue, pitched to match your child's needs.

NUMERACY

In numeracy this term, a lot of our learning surrounds applying already taught skills in different contexts. We will begin by securing the understanding of place value and using this to partition numbers in different ways and compare them in equations.

Children will then learn to show an amount in different denominations of coins and also how to link multiplication in the context of money, e.g. $10p+10p+10p+5p=10p \times 3$ then $+5p$. We will also be reminding ourselves of telling the time on an analogue clock, before problem solving with all 4 operations. Problems will be 'one step' and then extend to 'multiple step' as appropriate.

Can I again ask for your support in securing mental maths recall at home? The national expectation for year 2 is that children can recall all multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Your children will be the first children to take the national tables assessment when they are in year 4, so it really makes sense for them to secure tables knowledge year on year.

The other area of maths that requires instant recall is halves (of even numbers) and doubles, up to double 20 (e.g. double 17, halve 34). Flash cards are an excellent tool, but our current favourite in Purple Class is 'Hit the Button'. Search online for the website or app.

EXTRAS

Please make sure your child has a named water bottle and a healthy snack in school each day. There are some children who regularly have neither at the moment. They may not have mentioned this to you!

I would appreciate it if you could check again that all items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name, including shoes and gloves. Thanks ☺

The days for Forest School this half term:

Group 3 - Friday

Group 4 - Thursday

Group 5 - Wednesday

NEW CLASS MEMBERS...

At long last, a very warm welcome to Mabel Blackwell and Peggy Blackwell!

Thank you so much for all of your efforts last term with fundraising. The children were so engaged in their learning as a result of our project and have been so excited to finally get the guinea pigs. We raised £640 which has bought all we need so far and will continue to fund the upkeep of the two newest members of Blackwell First School.



Thanks once again for your support. I will see you shortly for parents' meetings, but in the meantime if there is anything you wish to discuss, feel free to catch me at the end of the school day.
Miss Kuriger ☺