

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome to a new school year...

A very warm welcome to the first ever Purple Class newsletter! I hope that the summer holidays has brought you lots of time for fun and rest and that you are feeling ready for a new term and new school year. It does seem a long time since I was unpacking and organising Purple Class at the start of the holidays, but September soon comes around again and we're back to a normal routine. I am excited to be teaching Purple Class this year together with Mrs Morgan and we aim to give your child a smooth transition into year 2. Changes and new starts can be difficult at times but together I'm sure we will all settle into Purple Class soon enough.

TOPIC

Our first topic of this school year is 'The Romans'. This is one of my favourite history topics and promises to be full of interesting facts to learn and skills to develop. We will even visit a real Roman villa (Tuesday 20th September)!



Our history focus will be upon the different events and people that brought the Romans to our shores, the difficulties they faced during invasion and the changes they were responsible for that are still seen in Britain today. Children will question, interpret, analyse and explain different historical sources to help learn about the past.

Our Roman topic will continue with D.T. and art this half term. Children will have the opportunity to develop cooperation and teamwork skills whilst they create their own simple Roman board game and then design and make a box for it. They will explore stability in structures to help with this as well as developing measure and fine motor skills to ensure their box is suitable for purpose.

Art sees a further development of mark making techniques using patterns, motifs and shading to create different tones. The final piece of Roman artwork will combine all of these skills.

We look forward to showing you some of our learning at our 'Grand Opening' on the evening of the 21st September, where we officially celebrate the opening of our new building, including Purple Class.



Computing, Music, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum' area. The second topic will be 'Nature'.

BITS AND PIECES

Your child will bring home reading books to share with you but we also encourage the children to read books that they enjoy (and are appropriately challenging) from home too. Please find time **each night** to support your child with their reading as regular reading practice has a **significant** impact on children's learning. The new home-reading system will be implemented this coming term.

Don't forget the School Wall as an online resource to further challenge your child's learning. Children will be reminded how to access this during the first few weeks of this term.



Children will find out their club groups in the first week back. Forest school days are:
Group 3 Monday, Group 4 Tuesday, Group 5 Wednesday.

LITERACY

We will continue the factual side of our history learning this term through literacy. We will delve into the world of non-fiction texts, focusing particularly on report writing about the Romans. After spending time reading and developing comprehension skills through research and discussion, children will be reminded of the basic ingredients of different types of sentences and the importance of editing and checking for sense. These skills will be applied to basic paragraphs in order to develop their own non-fiction reports.

NUMERACY

The start to this term in maths is all about number – counting, place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction. Children will be counting in steps of 2, 5 or 10 and working with number bonds to 10 and 20 (e.g. 1+9, 11+9). They will focus on 1 and 2 digit numbers. Spending time securing children's understanding of smaller numbers is crucial for the development of calculation skills later on in the year.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A quick checklist for each day in school:

- school book bag
- home reading book and card
- water bottle
- healthy snack
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks



It is important that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

Here's hoping to a great start to the school year!
If there is anything you would like to talk to me about then please do come and see me at or after the end of the school day. I'd be very happy to meet you all and answer any questions or queries you may have.

Miss Kuriger ☺