

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**A big warm welcome to everyone!** I hope you all had a good summer holiday and are looking forward to the new academic year where there will be lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child. Mrs Marks will also be working in Blue Class and as a team we will work to ensure that your child is happy, works hard and fulfils their academic potential in a classroom where learning behaviours and code of conduct are continually developed and supported too. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks.

### TOPIC

We kick start the year with a seasonal topic about 'Scarecrows'. This learning will involve the children planning and making both large and moving scarecrows which you will be able to come and see at our very own **Scarecrow Festival** on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15pm.

This project will enable the children to plan their own learning and develop team work skills, particularly how to communicate ideas and compromise effectively, in an exciting real life context, supporting the children in being independent learners.

D.T, Geography and Science are areas of the curriculum which will be covered during this topic. Geography will focus on recognising and explaining patterns made by the seasons across the world and how climate and humans can influence the harvest.

Through D.T. the children will explore mechanisms and design and make moving scarecrows involving cams. New skills will be taught including sawing and learning how to keep safe!

Science will enable the children to explore our natural world further with a focus on living things. They will use classification keys to identify a variety of living things in local and wider environments and recognise how changes to environments can sometimes pose dangers to living things which will link well with our geography work when looking at the impact of humans on farming.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.



### LITERACY

The children will be reading and writing scarecrow character descriptions. We will use a range of scarecrow stories including Tattybogle and go back to the 80s and watch *Worzel Gummidge* to help inspire us and develop our vocabulary to enable us to use words and phrases that capture the reader's interest. The children will be introduced to their individual writing target and regular handwriting sessions will help them to develop their cursive handwriting so that they become fluent writers. In phonics the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding suffixes -ing, -er, -en, -ed, spelling words where the 'i' sound is spelt with a y e.g. crystal and words where the 'u' sound is spelt with 'ou' e.g. young.



### NUMERACY

During Numeracy children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of 3 and 4 digit numbers and mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. Mental starters will focus on number bonds to 20, 100 and beyond, doubles and halves to 100 and counting on and back in different steps including negative numbers. We will also revisit the 2, 5 and 10 times table to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order. ***Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too!***



### 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 to help foster a love of reading. Please find time ***each night*** to support your child with their reading. The children are expected to read at least 4 times a week at home as regular reading practice has ***significant*** impact on children's learning.

Forest School for children in Blue Class will take place on Monday (groups 7 and 8) or Tuesday (group 6) this term. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

We have a rich and varied curriculum each day in school which often involves physical and messy activities. We often note that children with long hair which is not tied up can find it challenging to complete these activities and can get frustrated because it gets in their way. To avoid this (and painful tangles), it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.



### CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card
- water bottle
- 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

Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.



I am really looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best before they move on to middle school. Please pop in for a chat at the end of the school day if you have any questions or if you just want to say hello. Thank you. *Miss Townsend*