

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



### Welcome to a new school year...

A very warm welcome to the first Purple Class newsletter of the year. 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 waving off old Purple Class, 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 Moran and we aim to give your child a smooth transition into year 2. Changes and new starts can be a challenge at times but together I'm sure we will all settle into Purple Class quickly.

### TOPIC

Our first topic of this school year is 'Scarecrows'.

Our topic lessons will focus on design technology (DT) geography and science. In DT children will be designing and creating their own mini scarecrow, exploring the use of different materials and ways to fix them, to ensure their scarecrow friend is stable and secure.



In geography we will explore the change that a scarecrow sees across the seasons, and indeed the changes we see in our weather in the UK throughout the year. This will be a good opportunity to dip into some maths through data handling. We will also complete some map work, using atlases and smaller scale maps to look at physical and human features of the UK, before learning more about bird's eye view to create our own small scale maps and keys. At the end of our topic we will debate human impact on the local environment and through philosophy will try to understand why changes can be good and bad.

In science children will be learning about plants. Which plants would the scarecrow expect to see? How would he identify them? What features do all plants have? What makes a plant good at surviving in its habitat? These are just a few of the science questions we'll be finding out the answers to as we observe, test and research more about plants around us.

We look forward to showing you some of our learning at our 'Scarecrow Festival' after school on 29<sup>th</sup> September.



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 'Vikings' with history and art as the main subjects in our topic.

### 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 **significant** impact on children's learning.

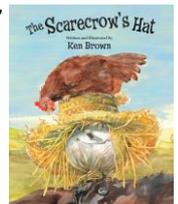


Children will find out their club groups in the first week back. Forest school days are:

Grp 3 – Friday    Grp 4 – Thursday    Grp 5 - Wednesday

### LITERACY

We are going to be doing our literacy learning based around the story of 'The Scarecrow's Hat', by Ken Brown. We will begin by reading the story and learning how to retell it using expression and actions. This will be good for our teamwork and confidence. Then we will continue to build on learning from year 1, constructing perfect sentences with capital letters and full stops before challenging ourselves to extend our sentences using conjunctions e.g. and, but, if, when, that. By the end of our scarecrows topic we will be able to write our own version of the story, applying our literacy skills. Handwriting and phonics teaching continues each week.



### 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 – please label everything!

- school book bag
- home reading book and card
- water bottle
- healthy snack
- hooded, waterproof coat
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks
- 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)



Here's looking forward 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 after the end of the school day.  
Miss Kuriger ☺