

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome back

Hello and welcome back to a new half term in Purple Class. Last half term was a super start to the year and already I can see lots of progress in the children's learning. We've managed a trip to Blists Hill and a fantastic Planet Earth class assembly. I am now getting better at recognising the faces of parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts...apologies if I'm not quite there with you yet!

This term will be busy as ever...take a look at some of the learning we have planned.

ALREADY THIS TERM...

This week we have learnt about the history of Bonfire Night and also Remembrance Day. The children have been fascinated by the history behind these important days. We created our own poppy wreath (with 100 poppies to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI) and took it to St Catherine's Church. We found the memorial plaque there and have been able to find out more about the men who are named on it.

If you would like to find out more, this website allows you to click on the names and see available information about each soldier:

<http://www.rememberthefallen.co.uk/memorial/blackwell-st-catherines-church/>.



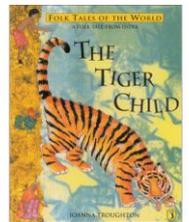
The same is also available for the larger Lickey memorial:

<http://www.rememberthefallen.co.uk/memorial/lickey-war-memorial/>. We have found it really interesting to learn more about some local history.

LITERACY

The children will be reading and writing stories set in a different culture – India. Children will focus on writing clear full sentences using different punctuation as well as extending sentences using a variety of conjunctions (e.g. and, or, if, but, because, when). To add interest to our writing we will explore creating noun phrases using adjectives (e.g. the bold, strong tiger). Towards the end of the topic we will write and edit our stories to share with other classes.

Phonics, spelling, handwriting and guided reading sessions will continue each week, based upon your child's own needs.



NUMERACY

Throughout this term in mental maths, children will continue to recall number bonds *within* 10 (e.g. $2+3=5$ $5-3=2$) and to 10 and use these facts to recall bonds within larger numbers. We will also focus on learning halves and doubles up to double 20. These are essential in Year 2 and beyond and some help with this at home would be appreciated.

In year 2 we continue to consolidate our understanding of written methods for addition and subtraction and will begin to link counting patterns more formally to multiplication and division.

TOPIC

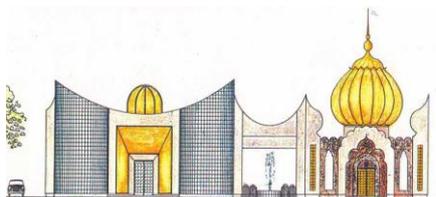
Our new topic beginning next week is all about 'Special Places' and is mostly RE and Geography based learning, with a focus upon Sikhism and India.

In RE this half term we will learn about which places are special in different religions and then focus more upon the beliefs and practices of Sikhism. The children will learn about the origins of the religion, significant leaders and key aspects of religious belief. There will be opportunity to reflect on our own opinions.

In Geography we will find out about special places in India, exploring physical and human features. We will compare a village in India with Blackwell to see how life can be similar and different.

Children will be sharing their topic learning with the rest of the school during a class swap at the end of the topic.

See the curriculum page on the school website for more information about other topics such as PSHE and music that are taught throughout the year.



Of course, following on from our Special Places topic, we will be learning about and preparing for Christmas (but that's ages away yet!).

SPELLING

At school we teach spelling throughout the curriculum as well as in a discrete phonics/spelling session each day. The national curriculum spelling expectations are very challenging and lots of children find spelling difficult. Here are the 'tricky' words (that phonics doesn't work for) that we will focus on this half term. You may like to explore them at home too.

***because should could would every
everybody even both most only old cold
told gold hold Christmas***

Please feel free to catch me at the end of the day if there is anything I can help with. Thanks for your support.

Miss Kuriger ☺