

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 an exciting history topic – The Victorians: a local study. We will be investigating the lives of some significant people and the variety of jobs during this time for both adults and children! The children will discover more about Victorian Britain when they visit a Victorian town and, to make the children feel like they have really stepped back in time, they can come dressed as a Victorian child for this trip. The learning during this topic will be displayed for you all to enjoy on our open evening on **Wednesday 26th September**, 6pm – 7.30pm.



Art and Science are other areas of the curriculum taught during this topic. Through Art the children will develop their drawing skills learning how to make careful observations of patterns and lace and use line and colours to create landscapes of Victorian Britain. John Brunson, L.S. Lowry and William Morris will be some of the artists and their work that the children will explore.

Science will focus on living things. They will use classification keys to identify and group a variety of living things in local and wider environments, explore food chains and plan and carry out fair tests.

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 character descriptions for some fascinating fictional Victorians. We will read and watch the Charles Dickens's classic, *Oliver Twist* 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, –ment, –less, –ful, –ness and ly and will practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:



accident, accidentally, actual, actually, address, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy, business, calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue

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!**



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.

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 a **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 and unwanted visitors!), it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.

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*