

# 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 holiday 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 Miss Arscott, and we aim to give your child a smooth transition into year 2. Changes and new starts can be tricky at times but together we will all settle into Purple Class soon enough.

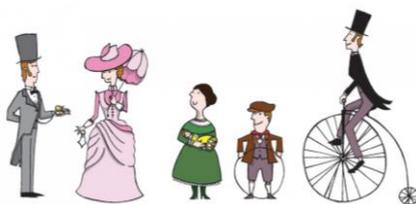
### TOPIC

Our first topic of this school year is 'Victorians: a local study'. Topic lessons will focus on history and art as well as science (which will continue into our next topic). In history, children will begin to explore a range of historical sources to see what they can learn from them about the past. We will investigate how children's lives were different in the Victorian era compared to now and how they might have been similar to today too. Together, we will explore which changes are the most significant. Our school visit to a Victorian town will support our history learning excellently.

In art, children will develop printing skills begun in year 1. They will explore the use of positive and negative stencils as well as the use of clay relief blocks. The Victorian artist we will be learning from is William Morris, whose designs are still very popular today.

In science, children will be learning more about plants. Which plants would be in a Victorian garden? How would we 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.

The second topic of this half term is 'Planet Earth' where we will focus on geography, science and art. We look forward to showing you some of our learning at our family assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> October.



Computing, Music, P.E., P.S.H.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum' area.

### LITERACY

We are going to be exploring our literacy learning based around the story 'Daisy Saves the Day' by the famous children's author, Shirley Hughes. This story will support the children's historical understanding of the Victorian era as it follows the working life of a Victorian child. We will begin by reading the story and focusing in on the characters' thoughts and feelings throughout. We will learn how to use clues in a text to make a prediction and then continue to build upon year 1 learning by constructing perfect sentences with capital letters, verbs, full stops and good sense. Children will be challenged to extend sentences using conjunctions e.g. and, but, if, when, that. By the end of our Victorian 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, socks, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)



### BITS AND PIECES

Your child will bring home reading books to share with you (in new black folders to keep them tidy) but we also encourage the children to read books that they enjoy (and are appropriately challenging) from home too. Please try and find time *each night* to support your child with their reading as regular reading practice has a *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

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 after the end of the school day.

Miss Kuriger ☺