

# NEWSLETTER

## Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



Welcome back! Hopefully, you have all had an enjoyable break and are ready for the half term ahead. It can be quite a challenge when moving from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 but I have been delighted to see so many children working hard with determination and maturity. This week, we have started to explore different festivals and celebrations. Our learning continues to be very exciting as we prepare for our 'Festivals Showcase' and our Christmas production later on in the term. See what we have in store for this busy half term!

### Topic

As part of our Festivals topic, the children will be working towards their end project - a showcase! This will enable the children to plan their own learning and develop their collaboration skills to make something to present to the rest of the school. Geography, Art and RE are areas of the curriculum which will be covered during this topic. In preparation, the key skills we will be focusing on are open mindedness, reviewing own learning and collaboration.

In RE, we will be focusing on the religion of Buddhism. We will consider where Buddhism was founded, the main beliefs, special places, special festivals, symbols and meanings.

Through Art, the children will focus on painting including exploring tints and tones, short and thick paint strokes, the use of techniques such as impasto all to create a piece of art inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night Over the Rhône'.



During Geography, we will investigate a range of places to consider what they are like and where they are located, why places are like they are, how places are different and similar, how places have changed and how they may change further, why places are linked and recognise how people can improve the environment or damage it.

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.

Our second topic of the half term is 'Christmas' where we will cover areas of RE.

### Numeracy

In Numeracy, children will complete a range of activities to support with position and direction. We will be focusing on mental and written methods to solve multiplication and division problems. We will also look at using the inverse. We will complete various activities to help support their understanding of fractions including counting in fractional steps, recognising and comparing fractions, equivalence and problem solving with fractions. Our problem solving focus for the term will be 'finding rules and describing patterns'.

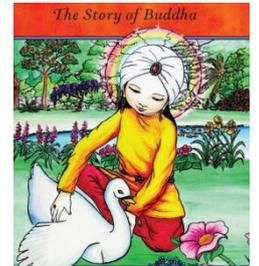
### Reading

We are pleased with the progress the children are making with their reading skills. Thank you for your support at home. Please remember to sign your child's card when you hear them read.

### Literacy

Initially, the children will be exploring a range of text types to spot similarities and differences, using non-fiction texts to retrieve and record information and exploring different themes and conventions. They will also be producing their own narratives based on traditional Buddhism stories. To develop their writing skills we will focus on the use of noun phrases to add detail, using verb tenses correctly, using conjunctions to extend sentences and using direct speech correctly. We will also have a big emphasis on proof reading and editing our own writing as well as performing our stories.

During our Christmas topic, our focus will be on a range of festive and winter poetry.



### Clothing and Equipment

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

- school book bag
- reading diary
- water bottle
- jumper/ cardigan
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers, pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for long hair and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks

Please make sure all of your child's clothes, shoes and belongings e.g. water bottle, book bag, hats... are named. This really helps the children (and the adults!) to ensure things are returned quickly. Thank you!

Home time is usually a good time to come and talk to us whether it is just to have a chat or if you have any questions. We look forward to another successful half term!

Miss Steele and Miss Chamberlain ☺