

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back after the half term break. We are now half way through this academic year and the children are working extremely hard and developing excellent attitudes towards their learning. The last half term was certainly a busy one...bread making in DT, writing competitions, learning tricky gymnastic balances, solving Ancient Egyptian dilemmas and the start of employment and earning Blackwell pounds were just some of the highlights. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Open Afternoon where you were able to share in your child's classroom and learning and have a chat with us. We have certainly missed these opportunities. We have lots more exciting learning and experiences in store for this half term too to continue to develop the children into lifelong motivated and curious learners. In a few weeks' time, we look forward to meeting with you during parent consultations and sharing with you both your child's academic progress but also their social and personal development, alongside targets to work on in school and home. Plus, Blue Class Family Assembly is on March 31st at 8.45am so we hope to welcome you to site that morning.

TOPIC

'Adventures' is our new topic where the children will be investigating 'The Race to the South Pole' and the explorers Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen.



We are delighted to be able to share with you that Blue Class's project will be a 'live' family assembly where the children will share all of their learning with you. This will take place on Thursday 31st March, at 8.45am. Developing good communication skills will be an area of focus throughout this topic and will be on show in a variety of ways during the assembly.

Geography and Art are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Geography, children will explore global features, learn about longitude and latitude and interpret maps of different scales. The big question for our learning will be 'How does Amundsen's home country compare to Scott's?' and so we will focus on physical and human features of Norway.

In Art, there are 2 artists for us to explore and learn from. The first is an American artist, Georgia O'Keeffe. She is well known for her floral paintings. The second artist is the English artist, J. M. W. Turner. He produced many landscape paintings from observation. After exploring their differing painting techniques, children will create their own floral artwork and also their own landscape, linked to our Geography learning. We look forward to revealing some of our artwork to you in our class assembly as well as during an art exhibition!

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.

BITS AND PIECES

Thank you for supporting your child at home with daily reading and times table practice. It makes a big difference and with continued regular practise, they will be secure with these key learning skills in preparation for middle school.

Even though we still have half a year left, it is important we work together to further develop the children's independence before they go to middle school. Encouraging them to check their own book bags for things they need, carrying their own belongings to and from school and talking to their friends or adults in school if they have any problems are some of the small things that can make a big difference.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. Many thanks.
Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

LITERACY

Reading and writing diaries and non-chronological reports will be the focus in Literacy based on Scott and Amundsen's adventures. Asking questions about what they read, making inferences and understanding the structure of different texts will develop the children's reading skills.

Learning how to structure sentences in different ways using a range of subordinating conjunctions and developing cohesion in paragraphs will be a focus, alongside developing their sentence writing skills by consolidating their use of a range of adverbials such as time adverbials (suddenly), prepositions (inside) and adverbs (nervously).

In Spelling, the children will be learning how to spell words with the 'g' sound spelt with 'gu', consolidate their use of apostrophes for plural possession and explore more homophones such as scene/seen and ball/bawl.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will continue to focus on mental and written methods for multiplication and division. Please see the homework sheet for some of the mental maths strategies being taught.

Problem solving continues to be part of every maths lesson and the children are developing skills to solve complex multistep problems through the use of bar modelling.

Towards the end of the term, we will be learning how to tell the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks to 5-minute intervals. We only have a couple of weeks during the year to teach this tricky concept so support from home makes a big difference. The following link is to an online game to help them to consolidate their understanding.
https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling_the_time#

Mental maths will focus on the 6 and 7 times tables, counting on and back in different steps involving crossing zero i.e. 8, 5, 2, -1, -4 and multiplying and dividing whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000.



Take a look back at last half term...



learning about art and artists through continuous provision



developing coding skills in Computing



bread making in D.T.



counter balances in P.E.