

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to school. We hope you had a restful half term break and that the children are ready for another exciting half term in Green Class. The children had a fantastic end of the half term by being thoroughly enthralled with our Ancient Egypt topic and really did turn into 'dip making' experts in DT. We continue to be very proud of them and are looking forward to the next steps in their learning journey by altering our approach to focus groups which will allow children to work more independently from adults in preparation for Year 2. Whilst it seems a long way off, we make changes to our day gradually for it to be as smooth as possible for the children. This half term we look forward to the topics of Adventures and Easter.

### English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss and for our 'Adventures' topic it is called 'Where the Wild things are' which is a classic written by Maurice Sendak. The book lends itself to lots of opportunities for writing including postcards which Max sends from his travels, character descriptions of the 'Wild Things' and we will be writing the story with the help of an oral retell. Our focus will be on writing accurate sentences which have capital letters, full stops and accurate use of phonics. This is the aim for Year 1 and it is certainly a challenge.

#### Reading

This half term we continue to learn that sounds we know can be made by different graphemes e.g. all of these graphemes make the same sound- ai, ay, a, a-e! Our work will help in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in June. All children will be 'tested' on their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. 20 are real and 20 are alien words. The pass mark is usually around 32. Whilst we don't use the language of 'test' with children and they often enjoy the 1:1 reading sessions with Mrs Moss and I, it is really important that children practise the skill of accurate sound talking and blending at home and at school. Our e books are great practise for this and invaluable reinforcement of reading in school.



### Topic

During our 'Adventures' topic, we focus on Art and Geography. In Art, we will be developing our painting techniques and using the artist Jasper Johns as our inspiration as well as stories. We will be painting different shaped lines with different thickness of lines and developing our knowledge of colours such as primary and secondary colours. In Geography, we will be focussing on global geography and how to locate the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We will then use the research question of 'What was it like where Max sailed to?' (The main character from our book) and we will compare what different places are like in different continents with specific attention paid to the South Pacific as we compare Maurice Sendak's illustrations to real photographs from this part of the world. The topic lends itself excellently to learning about different real-life explorers both past and present.

During our Easter topic, Religious Education forms the basis for our learning as we learn about which places are special and why and what it means to belong to a faith community. We will also learn about what it means to be Jewish including beliefs and practices.



Jasper Johns 0 through 9

### Homework

Thank you for all of the super effort you are putting in to helping the children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate and share their successes. Homework remains **optional** and activities are designed to help you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. Reading remains the best homework you can do with children, several times a week as it has a significant impact on their progress.

### Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of subtraction which is the most complex of the calculations for them. We will be solving subtraction calculations by counting back as well as counting on when the numbers are close together e.g. for 30 - 27 the children will count on from 27 rather than count back 27 from 30. We will use this knowledge to help us find the difference between 2 numbers. It is great if they know their number bonds so that they know that from a 7, they need 3 more to reach a 10. As always, we will use bar modelling as a visual representation for the maths we are doing. Children will develop their written method of subtraction and mental methods. We will be calculating with numbers up to 100. We end the term with a measurement unit where the children will be measuring and calculating with money and learning to tell the time to o'clock and half past.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 10 including subtraction facts, recognising odd and even numbers and finding small differences between numbers. As always, there will be lots of singing in our lessons! Please see mental maths facts on the homework sheet, which when practised at home will become extra fluent.

Parts of Subtraction

$$\begin{array}{c} 5 - 1 = 4 \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \text{Minuend} \quad \text{Subtrahend} \quad \text{Difference} \end{array}$$

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks**- Please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. (30p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**Forest School**- This is taking place as mixed key stage groups as follows- **Group 1 Monday, Group 2- Tuesday, Group 3- Wednesday**. The children will be told which group they are in but please do ask if you are not sure or check the app list.

**PE and sports club**- Children take part in sports lessons several times a week, please make sure long hair is tied up **and tape is provided for children with pierced ears** who cannot remove earrings themselves. (Tuesday is our main PE day) Dance will be our focus this half term.

**Class assembly**- please come and join us on the back playground at 8.45am for a short assembly on 1.4.22. We are delighted to be slowly welcoming you back into school safely. Be kind to us as this will be the children's first live performance as a class since starting school!



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email the office [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) and I will telephone you back or informal chats can happen at the end of the school day on the front playground.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team x