

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



Welcome back after the Easter holidays! We hope you have all enjoyed the break and the sunshine and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. On the children's return to school in March, we were delighted with how well they settled back into school life, working with enthusiasm, curiosity and a determination to do well. We are now in our final term where we will continue to support the children's learning and wellbeing in light of the challenges they have faced over the last twelve months. Thank you for your ongoing support in working on their targets at home, alongside reading and times tables practice. This is making a significant difference to their learning and progress. Transition work will also be an important aspect this term and we will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school.

TOPIC

'Africa' is our new topic with Geography, R.E. and Science being the main subjects taught. As always, we will be working towards a project so that the children's learning has a purpose and is motivational. The project for this topic has been set by Mrs Moss who has asked us to learn about a charity, which either helps improve people's lives or the environment. You will receive a letter explaining more about this exciting project and how you will be able to share in your child's learning.



The main question we will be answering as part of this topic is 'Would you be happier living in a village in England or a village in Africa?' In Geography, children will use lots of geographical vocabulary to describe the location and main physical and human features of Africa, interpreting maps, photographs and other geographical sources. We will focus on the country of Zambia and learn about a village in the north and what life is like there. We will compare this village to Blackwell to find similarities and differences. Blue Class will have opportunity to learn more by asking questions (via Zoom) to a visitor who lived in Zambia for over 40 years.

Learning in R.E. will be about how people mark the significant events in the 'journey' of life. Children will learn about how this happens in different places, in different religions or with those who do not have religious beliefs. In Science, children will learn more about electricity, circuits and about how to work scientifically.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children will be taught each week too. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

As well as the above, our values and key competences of being **respectful and responsible citizens** and **independence** will be the foci during this half term where we will support the children further with their social and moral values and encourage them to make their own decisions, select learning resources and know what can help them with their learning apart from an adult!

YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school, all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.

YEAR 4 JOB SCHEME

All children who wanted to take part in our Year 4 job scheme have been successfully trained or will be over the next two weeks. They need to bring a purse or wallet to school to keep their hard earned money safe which they will be able to pay in at our new 'Bankwell'!

As parents remain unable to wait on the playground at the moment, if you want to have a chat with us, please email office@ and we will arrange to give you a call. Thank you.

Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

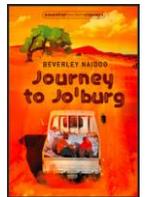


LITERACY

'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' will be our stimulus in Literacy. Asking questions about the text, making predictions and analysing characters will develop their reading skills. The children will learn how to add more detail to their sentences with adverbs i.e. happily, nervously..., develop ways of starting sentences in interesting ways and consolidate their use of correctly punctuated dialogue. The children continually work towards their personal writing targets and it has been great to see many children achieving several of their targets.

In Spelling, the children will be taught how to spell further homophones, words with prefixes -ir, -in, -im and -il, words ending in -cian, -sion, -tion and -ssion as well as revisiting apostrophes for possession. Please see the homework sheet to see which tricky words the children will be learning to spell this half term.

The award winning book 'Journey to Jo'Burg' will be our storytime text which will help them learn more about equal rights and the wider world.



NUMERACY

In Numeracy, we will be continuing to learn how to use mental and written methods for multiplication and division. When learning about formal written methods, children will use concrete apparatus and pictorial methods before moving onto the abstract methods to help foster a deep understanding. Reasoning and problem solving skills will continue to be reinforced in all maths lessons. We will then be developing the children's place value knowledge and skills further by investigating tenths and hundredths and decimal numbers. Please see the homework sheet to see which mental maths facts and skills we will be focusing on this half term.

TIMES TABLE CHECK

All government testing for this academic year has been cancelled in light of Covid-19, however, we will still carry out the Year 4 'Times Table Check' as a way of helping us, as a school, track the children's progress and plan supportive next steps. Data will be for school use only. This will take place in June and will be seen as a low key 'fun online quiz' by the children. It is important that children can recall all times table facts fluently as this will help them to more easily access the Y5 and Y6 maths curriculum so please encourage your child to practise them daily. Thank you.

