

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to the new school year and welcome to Green Class. We hope you have had a lovely summer break filled with lots of rest. This term is renowned for being a hard term for children as they enter Year 1, the curriculum changes to a more formal approach to learning. Children will be accessing the National Curriculum through taught lessons, guided groups and Continuous Provision (Play and explore time). This approach makes the transition more manageable for children and continues to develop their positive attitude towards their learning. We start the half term with 2 exciting topics: The Bronze Age and In the Woods. Due to Covid-19, we know that a few children in the class had not returned before the summer break. We will be using this first half term to catch up on learning. Children may be tired returning to school full time, so remember that leaving school at 1:40pm is always an option. We look forward to working with all of our Green Class families and having a really successful year with the children.

English

To start the half term we will be using the story of 'The Three Billy Goats and the Bronze Age Chief'. We will be doing lots of reading and oral work first and will then write our own sentences. We will focus on the structure of a sentence: capital letter, sounding out words, having a verb, full stop and checking it makes sense.

In phonics we will revisit all taught phonemes and learn alternate graphemes (way a sound is written) for them e.g. children have learnt p/**ai**/n and will now learn p/**l/ay**.

Daily handwriting takes play with a varied mixture of Writedance, practical fine motor activities such as cotton bud painting and cursive letter formation.

To develop children's communication skills, they will work daily with a learning partner on practical or discussion tasks. These are chosen at random and children will work with that person for the duration of the topic, before changing partners.

Topic

All National Curriculum subjects are represented within the classroom throughout each term but below are the focus subjects for our topic lessons. We start the half term with a history focus. We will be learning about the Bronze Age and tools that they used. We will be developing our investigation skills using a variety of sources such as books, artwork and videos.

In DT, we are going to create our own spears to develop our understanding of joining. The spears we create will be featured in our 'Open Evening' video.

In Art, the children will learn about using different tools to make marks. The children will be using the skills they learn to create their own Bronze Age character.

Maths

We have a busy half term for the mathematicians of Green Class. We will start the half term by looking at number where we will be counting, reading, writing and comparing numbers. We will then work through stages of addition and subtraction which will include: using concrete objects, calculating mentally, using written methods and then problem solving. This year is about children developing fluency in maths and knowing everything about numbers 0-20.



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.

PE- takes place on a Tuesday. Please tie up long hair.

Forest School- this will take place in our class bubble on Tuesdays.

On Forest School days, children can come to school dressed in jogging bottoms and their usual school top. It is a good idea to send in a warm pair of socks on Forest School days or they can stay in PE bags. We have all necessary waterproofs but please make sure we have a pair of named wellington boots in school which still fit!

Homework

Children are given a sheet of **optional** homework activities which enable you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The reading books we have are designed to help children notice all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Following new government guidance on reading, we will send home a book to help them practice the phonics they are learning in class. For some children there may be a separate second book that supports other skills. Keywords will be accessed during Continuous Provision.

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please email the office and we will get back to you.

Thank you for your support,
Miss Davis, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Dudek and Ms Cain

