

# 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 memories. This term is renowned for being a hard term for children as they enter Year 1 and 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: Long Ago (The Romans) and Nature. 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 together.

### English

To start the half term, we will be using the story of 'Meg and the Romans'. We will be reading A LOT and talking about the story before we write our own sentences. We will focus on the structure of a sentence: capital letter, segmenting (sounding out words), including a verb, full stop and checking it all makes sense. In daily phonics, we will revisit all taught phonemes and tricky words. Children will also read a book in a group 3 times a week with an adult to practise applying taught sounds and words. Daily handwriting takes place 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 then gaining a new partner. Resilience is key!

### Maths

We have a busy half term for the mathematicians of Green Class. We will start the half term by looking at numbers and 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 before working on greater numbers.



### 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 suggested 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. At least 4 times a week is preferable (including weekends). The reading books we have are designed to help children notice and apply all of 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, over the coming weeks, be sending home books which match the teaching, books which match your child's ability and story books intended for adults to read to children for pleasure. Guidance will follow but, in the meantime, please continue to read the book which has been sent home with your child multiple times over the week and these will be changed every Monday and please initial children's reading logs when children have read at home.

### 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 Romans and the homes they lived in. We will be developing our investigation skills using a variety of sources such as books, artwork and videos. In Design and Technology, we are going to create our own moving pictures to develop our understanding of sliders and levers. The pictures we create will be featured in our 'Open Evening' photo board. In Art, the children will learn about using different tools to make marks. The children will be using the knowledge and skills they learn to create their own Roman inspired pictures.

### 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 and send in socks to stay in PE bags when children wear tights to school.

**Forest School** takes place in mixed key stage bubbles during club time (after 1.40pm) as follows- **group 2 Monday, group 3 Tuesday and group 4 Thursday.** Please see parent app message for groupings.

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 we will use during Play and Explore too.



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

[office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support,

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team