

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



Welcome back after the sunny half term break! We hope you had a good rest and enjoyed getting out and about in the lovely weather! Fingers crossed the sunny weather lasts during this half term. The children in Blue Class are now in their final half term at Blackwell First School and we are very proud of how hard they have worked this year and embraced the changes they have faced in light of Covid-19 with enthusiasm and smiles. They have been a delight to teach. But... it's not over yet! We have a very busy last half term and we hope to make it an exciting and memorable one for all children so they can take away fond memories of their time here. In addition to continued hard work, we have many exciting topics and events planned for this half term including bell boating, setting up their own art gallery, an 'All Things Wild' topic, our Malvern adventure and a sleep over at school to name just a few!

TOPIC

'A World of Fantasy' is our new topic with Art and D.T. being the main foundation subjects taught. The project the children will be working towards is setting up an Art Gallery for the other children in school to enjoy. Their learning in Literacy, Art and DT will support this project, giving their learning a purpose and widening their cultural understanding.



In Art, children will learn how to use collage to create their own distorted, fantasy images. We will use work from Andy Warhol, Francis Bacon and Henri Matisse as inspiration and will explore how paper and other materials can be cut, torn and overlapped to create unique pieces of artwork. Our artwork will be displayed in our school art gallery for other classes to enjoy.

In DT, we will explore food and nutrition. We will take inspiration from the famous chef, Jamie Oliver, and make healthy choices to design and make our own savoury biscuits which will be our 'nibbles' as we enjoy the school art gallery. Children will explore existing products and also consider good practice for food hygiene and safety as they learn to make and bake.

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.

SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

To prepare your child for middle school, the following would be supportive:

- staying at school until 3.15pm as much as possible
- develop their independence by giving them more responsibility e.g. packing their own school bag, taking responsibility for reading each night, handing forms from their bags to you yourselves and returning them to school etc.
- reminding them that a good quality piece of homework should be handed in every Tuesday
- talking to your children about moving to middle school, talking openly about feelings and changes in a positive and honest way

Y4 JOB SCHEME UPDATE

This half term will see those children in employment receive interest on their savings and it's at a massive 10%! They will also be able to start spending their well-earned salaries on treats such as non-school uniform for the day or hire of a school DVD. It is lovely to see the children develop resilience (the novelty factor for some has worn off) and an understanding of what working life is like and the rewards for hard work. **Well done Year 4 workers!**



LITERACY

The fantasy story 'The Twelve and the Genii' is the text of focus in Literacy to develop the children's speaking and listening, reading and writing skills. It is a story based on twelve tin soldiers owned by the Brontë children who went on fascinating adventures. When reading the text, the children will be encouraged to pose questions to deepen their understanding, summarise the main events through drama and discuss author intent. The children will use their reading to write a range of texts including a missing person (soldier) poster, a first person recount and their own short tale about one of their own toys that comes alive. The quality of language the children use and how they structure their sentences will be a focus during their writing tasks. The children continually work towards their personal writing targets and many of them will soon achieve their target champion certificate.

In Spelling, the children will be taught how to spell words containing 'sc' such as science, ascend and scissors, words ending in ous and ious and we will revisit all prefixes learned including auto-, sub-, re- and inter. Please see the homework sheet to see which tricky words the children will be learning to spell this half term.

NUMERACY

Fractions and decimal numbers will be the foci and the children will use concrete apparatus to develop their understanding. Making fractions and decimal numbers, counting in fractional steps, adding and subtracting, comparing, finding equivalences and finding fractions of numbers (i.e. 5/7 of 56) will be some of the challenging learning the children will explore.

The children have now been taught all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. Over the next few weeks, they will complete the national 'Times Table Check'. 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.

Please see the homework sheet to see which other mental maths facts and skills we will be focusing on this half term.

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

Take a look back at last half term...



Working with our Artist in Residence, Mark Riley – we hope you can pop to Worcester Cathedral to see their masterpiece when Voices and Visions opens