



NEWSLETTER for Blackwell First School

...developing the whole child...

February 2021

Dear Families,

Brother and sister joining in 'Hello from Mrs Moss' from home.

Snowmen on the front playground...

...and at home. Well done for keeping going!



Great puppet making summer!

We are at the end of this first half term of the Spring term and what a half term it has been! Thank you to you all for your support of both the school and the children. We have been so impressed by the quality of engagement and learning at home, even from the very youngest children. It is not possible for primary age children to learn independently at home and this is what has made home learning such a challenge for primary age families but we have been staggered by the response we have had from you all. Thank you.

Hopefully, moving into next half term, primary schools will begin to open to more/ all children. In the meantime, whilst you're still trying to support them at home, please remember the following avenues of support available to you:

- Daily planning on the ParentApp with all links for teaching films and registration;
- Zoom Rooms for Blue and Yellow Classes at set times throughout the day (the children have found that dropping in to ask their teachers questions is a really useful resource);
- Class emails to support you;
- Feedback from teachers for their learning returned each day and
- A variety of community engagement projects.

After half term, we look forward to welcoming Red, Green and Purple Classes to their own Zoom Rooms for families to help answer questions throughout the day. We know that the oblong/ rectangle issue was cause for discussion in Green Class and either emailing the teacher or dropping into the Zoom Room may be helpful in resolving these queries.

This last week of half term, focused on the school theme of 'Belonging', has been specifically designed to unite our special school community and whether you enjoy the Sea Shanty, Community Quilt or Window Wander, there's plenty to keep everyone together. I am sure that many of you will be wandering around the village next week when everyone's windows are decorated on the splendid theme of 'Friendship'.

After half term, we will begin an exciting new theme of 'Native Americans'. How exciting! If you're feeling like finding out a little more about the Native Americans, join a virtual tour of the British Museum gallery here https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/british-museum/AwEp68JO4NEChQ?sv_h=20.06158452827252&sv_p=-5.313622665406001&sv_pid=AYAsiaa6Q81ktirjFSqDeQ&sv_lid=3582009757710443819&sv_lng=-0.1272534440083462&sv_lat=51.51992320567156&sv_z=0.691129249945927 or even watch this short animation to introduce the children to this period of history <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxNDKlh-Vjo> (These are more appropriate for children in Years 2 to 4). We are really looking forward to sharing this new topic with you all and hopefully finishing it with all of the children back in school.

Have a lovely half term everyone and thank you for your continued support. Please remember to email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk if your child attends site and develops COVID-19 symptoms over next weekend and is tested for COVID-19 during half term. We are then able to inform public health as required. Many thanks and best wishes,
Mrs Moss



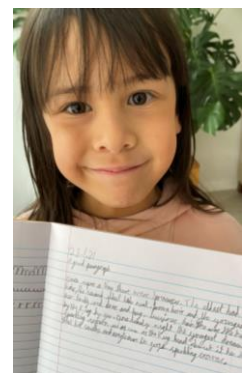
Beautiful art work by Emerson based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe.



Life skills, being developed here. Watch out Mrs Wilson!



Dom's fantastic puppet show was a big hit!



Keeping writing going is a challenge when working from home but Year 4 children have been working really hard to ensure that their skills are still strong!

SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

Sport- Let's hope we have a return to a 'new normal' for the summer term as we have signed up for our annual bellboating training which provides the children with fabulous opportunities for teamwork and resilience as well as a love of the outdoors and fitness. Fingers crossed for this event.

Arts – The Community Quilt, Sea Shanty and Window Wander are all example of how important the Arts is during this time. These events will bring together our community and encourage reflection and a sense of enjoyment. We can't wait to share these with you all.

Sainsbury's
SCHOOL
GAMES

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Last week's theme was 'Sustainability' and we considered our role in protecting planet Earth and the part we all play in making a difference. The children found out about the lives of famous environmentalists over the last century.

This week, 'Belonging' is the theme to align with our week's topic.

Parent Consultations - keeping you informed

Now that we are in the second term of the year, we can reflect on the children's progress so far this year. It is time for Parent Consultation meetings soon and letters have been sent home for you to book appointments. These times are opportunities to consider the children's progress so far this year, share information regarding their social and emotional development and any other relevant information that the teachers and families find useful to share. If you have specific issues that will require further discussion, the classteachers may advise you to book a separate appointment so that they do not keep other parents waiting unnecessarily. As a result of COVID-19 these meetings will take place using Zoom (or as telephone calls) during the day for Stay at Home Superheroes and the later afternoons for IN School Superheroes and we will look forward to hearing as much from you as home learning specialists as you hear from us for many of the children! As a school we aim to keep you informed about how to **support your child** and also about their **progress** through:

- School newsletters that keep you up to date with school events as well as educational news;
- Class newsletters and homework sheets that share the learning in each class so that you are aware of learning in all curriculum areas each half term;
- Early Years workshops;
- Reports (1 short and 1 longer), that provide information on your child's progress in line with the assessments teachers complete in school;
- Information meetings prior to moving year group;
- Website with all learning for each year group and
- Termly parent consultations.

Hungry Little Minds

The Government launched the 'Hungry Little Minds' campaign, designed to support families in providing the best start for young children.

The campaign provides information on developing the children's minds from birth-5 and the activities are simple and fun for both children and adults.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

The link above takes you to different sections for different ages and there are videos to support. Although many activities feel 'obvious', it may be worth considering whether you do things such as learning and saying Nursery rhymes with your little one. We know that activities like this support the development of language patterns and give a good grounding for later speech and reading.

