

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to school. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and that the children are ready for their final term in Green Class. This year has really flown by! We ended the Spring term in style with two very different performances to our families and we were very proud of the children's live performances. It really is wonderful to be welcoming families back into school in a safe way. This term, we take a more formal approach to learning in preparation for Year 2. The children will no longer have Play and Explore time but do still continue to access our resources once their 'work' is complete. The children are more than ready for this next step in their learning journey due to the gradual transition and I know I will continue to feel proud of them. We have two exciting topics this half term which are Go Global! and Jubilee. (More details will follow on our sporting events during the final week of the half term.)

### English

We start this topic as always with the arrival of our book from Mrs. Moss. This topic, we have a book called Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne which is a story about a little girl who gets a shock when all the fruit disappears from her basket on her journey to visit her friend Akeyo. The setting of the book is an African village, and we are going to be looking at the country of Tanzania more closely in terms of culture, lifestyle and how it differs from our own village but also identify similarities. In English, we will be learning to write non-fiction sentences about Tanzania in order to create our own guide to Tanzania. Our focus as always will be on using capital letters and full stops in EVERY sentence and using our phonics to spell words we don't know. We use our 'Grow the code' charts to pick the spelling patterns we need and make sure that what we write makes sense. We will also practise tricky word spelling daily. (These words are listed on the homework sheet)

**Phonics-** During lessons, we will be continuing to learn different graphemes for sounds we already know and also revise all previously taught sounds in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check. ('Quiz' is the vocabulary we use in school rather than test) We will also learn the skill of reading 'alien words' (groups of letters that do not make real words) as the check requires us to. Children will need to read 40 words with an adult. 20 are real and 20 are not. This will happen later in the term.

**Handwriting-** This half term we will work on careful letter joins and making sure letters all start and end from the line and are the right size when compared to each other i.e. tall letters such as l,b,d,k,h are all taller than other letters.



### Topic

During our 'Go Global' topic we have the focus subjects of science, geography, and RE. All our learning will focus on challenges we will complete in order to raise sponsorship money to support the British Red Cross who support families with kindness and compassion when they need it most. (More details will follow) Our work in geography will be comparing our own locality to a similarly small part of Tanzania. Our work on Tanzania will draw on similarities to the children's work last year about Kenya which borders Tanzania and develop their global awareness further. In RE, we will be considering the questions 'Who is Jewish and how do they live?' Our topic is designed to broaden children's horizons on a local and global scale. In science, we will consider how things work/move. We will explore a range of objects and decide which forces make them work i.e. a push or a pull. We will then use this knowledge to create our own toy such as a pullback catapult.

PE will continue weekly with a focus on outdoor games as children learn to control equipment such as balls, hockey sticks and play as a small team.

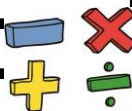
Computing this half term will have a coding focus.



### Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate and share their successes.

Homework remains **optional** and activities are designed to help you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. Reading remains the best homework you can do with children, multiple times a week as it has a **significant** impact on their progress. Our Little Wandle books accessed on the Collins website are the most phonically well matched to your child's ability and will be a book they have read 3 times in school already making it an enjoyable fluent read for you (hopefully!). Please ask the office for your code if you have mislaid it.



### Maths

Mental maths continues daily using facts listed on the homework sheet. Maths lessons will have three focus areas this half term which are multiplication, division and fractions. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and grouping. Children will work in concrete ways (using real objects) then will begin drawing objects from stories e.g. 5 red footballs and 5 blue footballs makes 10 red footballs. We don't use the **x** symbol in Year 1, but all this work is essential for children to understand concrete multiplication before they commence formal times table learning in Year 2.

A similar approach is taken to division where children will share and group objects and quantities in order to understand what dividing /division means.

During our fractions learning, children will learn to understand how to find halves and quarters of numbers, shapes and quantities starting with a concrete approach by using real objects.

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks-** Please send children to school with a healthy, nut free, 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.

**Forest School-** This is taking place as mixed key stage groups weekly as follows- Group 1 Monday, Group 2 Tuesday, Group 3 Wednesday, Group 4 Thursday and Group 5 Friday.

**PE and sports club-** Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure long hair is tied up **and tape is provided for children with pierced ears** who cannot remove earrings themselves. (Tuesday is our main PE day) Children will need shorts, t shirt and trainers in their PE bags for outdoor PE.

**Sun safe-** As the weather hopefully improves, please send children to school with a named hat and sun cream applied.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email the office [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) and I will telephone you back or informal chats can happen at the end of the school day on the front playground.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs James, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Flynn (**Mrs Dudek now works in Purple Class as Mrs Thompson is in Green Class every day.**)  
**Thank you, Mrs Dudek, for all your hard work on a Tuesday for the past 2 terms.**