

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back everyone. We hope you had an enjoyable half term break and a good rest. 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. Despite a couple of years of challenges due to Covid-19, they have developed excellent learning behaviours including resilience and independence and leave us being respectful and responsible individuals with minds full of aspirations. However, 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 will take away very fond memories of their time here. We have two fascinating topics left ('Inventions' and 'Creepy Crawlies'), a trip, board game making, a day or two working with our artist in residence and the event that the children have been looking forward to all year... our residential!

TOPIC

'Inventions' is our new topic where the children will be investigating



Britain during the Industrial Revolution. A dilemma based on Bromsgrove's button and nail industry will start the topic where the children will learn what life was like for children in Bromsgrove during this period and will give them the opportunity to ask questions and make difficult decisions. A trip will further enhance their learning enabling them to see history in real life, supporting engagement and developing local cultural and social awareness.

History, Art and R.E. are the main subjects taught during this topic. In History, children's learning will work towards answering the big question 'Were the consequences of the Industrial Revolution good or bad for Britain?'. They will explore and interpret a range of historical sources to find out about this significant period in Britain's past.

In Art, children will firstly learn about Josiah Wedgwood and his role in the Industrial Revolution with ceramic production. They will have a go at becoming potters themselves as we take on 3D artwork using clay. You will hopefully see some of our creations at the summer fair.

Learning in R.E. for the final unit of the year draws on previous learning from Christianity and Hinduism and asks the question 'How and why do people mark significant events in life?' We will be able to reflect on this question for our own personal beliefs too.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. 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

LITERACY

The Charles Dickens classic, 'Great Expectations' is the text to inspire the children's reading, communication and writing skills.

Posing questions, predicting, summarising, inferring and identifying good word choices as they explore the story will help to develop their reading skills. Hot seating and considering characters' thoughts and feelings will support their retelling and writing from a character's viewpoint alongside developing their sentence construction through the use of subordinating conjunctions, fronted adverbials and correctly punctuated dialogue.

Spelling lessons will focus on homophones, using apostrophes for possession and spelling words ending in -cian, -sion, -ssion and -tion. The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet.

Handwriting lessons continue to help increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting and pens will be introduced to support transition to middle school.



Take a look back at last half term's Jubilee celebrations...



NUMERACY

Fractions and measurement are the areas of focus. During their fraction learning, they will use concrete apparatus to develop a secure understanding. Making fractions, counting in fractional steps, adding and subtracting, comparing, finding equivalences and finding fractions of numbers (i.e. $\frac{5}{7}$ of 56) will be some of the challenging learning the children will explore. Measurement will include calculating area and perimeter and telling the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks.

The children have now been taught all of their times tables up to 12×12 . 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.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. Many thanks. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger