

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Purple Class



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas break and have rested well. It seems a long time ago now! A big well done to all the children for a fantastic autumn term. Whilst the world seemed very uncertain, school life in the classroom was very normal and we ended the term with lots of lovely Christmas events: a Christmas show; a story night and carols around the campfire to name a few. The children continued to impress me with their independence, their willingness to learn and how resilient they are to change. Thank you so much for your support, wishes and gifts at the end of term. 2021 will take the children further, whether they are at home or school.

TOPIC

This term we have two exciting topics which are 'Music to our Ears' and Belonging. During music to our ears, we were due to have a special visit from a CBSO string quartet (we hope this can be rescheduled for a later date.) Music will form a focus for this topic. Our project will be to create a puppet show to share with other classes.

In order to make suitable puppets, we will develop our understanding of materials and their properties in science. We will learn to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

In art we will develop our painting skills as we draw on inspiration from Wassily Kandinsky and Anthony Frost. We will respond to music through line, shapes and colour and work from our imagination to create some magical abstract art. Computing will have a word processing and internet safety as the focus.



EXTRAS

- Our Forest School day is **Monday** for children in school. Jogging bottoms and **warm socks** can be worn on this day.
- Our PE day is usually Tuesday but at times, may be other days. Please could children with long hair ensure they have a hair bobble in their bookbag if their hair is not always worn up and also a pair of socks if your child wears tights to school. Please name all items including hats and winter wear.
- A healthy morning and afternoon snack or 30p x 2 to purchase from our tuck shop is required daily.
- Reading books are changed every Monday via ParentApp or in school.
- **Current guidance states that there will be no national testing for Year 2 children in the summer. Results of the phonics screening taken in the autumn will be discussed during this term with you. We are, at present, unaware of the need to retake for the children that did not reach the required pass mark in the autumn.**

SPELLING

Spelling is always a challenging skill and often is what children struggle with in writing. At Blackwell, we don't test weekly, but we do however value your support. Attached to this topic's homework sheet is a spelling 'menu'. As often as you can, please pick words from year the Year 1/2 grid in your learning pack and practise spelling the words in a variety of ways. It is the expectation that children can read and spell them by the end of the year. We practise them daily in school too. If you need another sheet, I'll make them available in the classroom/online.

English

All of our English learning will be focused on the story 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' by Sally Grindley and Thomas Taylor. We will develop inference skills through both pictures and text as we read many different extracts from the story and delve into other genres with the same wizardry themes such as poems. Children will see how the author uses hints and clues to show characters' thoughts and feelings.

After getting to know the apprentice, children will decide on the features or 'ingredients' for a magical story which will help them to plan their own tale with magic and wizardry. We will also watch parts of Disney's Fantasia to add a visual element to our understanding. Before writing, children will be taught spelling strategies and skills, including the use of suffixes and apostrophes for contractions.



Children will continue to develop basic sentence writing skills as they learn to punctuate in the correct places to help the reader understand their ideas.

Phonics and handwriting continue, pitched to match your child's needs.

Maths

We will start 2021 with a recap on fractions. Everything with fractions is presented in a concrete and visual way to aid understanding at every stage. The main area of fractions learning for Year 2 involves identifying fractions of a shape and of a group (of objects or shapes). We will link fractions learning to our division learning. The expectation for Year 2 is to show understanding of a whole, half, quarter, three quarters and a third. Children will be encouraged to recognise the equivalence of a half and two quarters.

Following this, we will consolidate and extend concrete, pictorial and abstract methods of adding and subtracting in different contexts, and towards the end of the half term, we will revisit and extend our learning with multiplication and division.

In mental and oral starters, we continue to recall number facts – such as multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, number bonds within and to 10, 20 and 100 fluently, and recalling halves and doubles to double 20.



Thanks again for your ongoing support. If there is anything you wish to discuss, please email me on purpleclass@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or telephone the office and I will get back to you. We are very much still here for you whether you are at home or school, Mrs James x