

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back! We hope you had a restful half term break; the children were certainly ready for a rest at the end of the half term. We are very proud of the way they have settled into Year 1 and now that routines and expectations are embedded, we look forward to watching them flourish as learners. It was great to chat to you all at Parent Consultations and thank you very much for your kind support during the ever-changing picture we are faced with during this pandemic. It certainly does test the resilience of all involved and the children never cease to rise to the challenge. Fingers crossed for a safe and settled half term. We have two exciting topics during this half term which are: Roald Dahl and Christmas. Our chosen book for our first topic is *The Twits* and we will be sharing our learning with other classes in our 'Wonderful Words' celebration day to develop our communication and group work skills and also to learn about other stories written by the same author. We will be having an optional dress up day on 3.12.21 should children wish to dress up as a Roald Dahl character on that day. (Please do not spend lots of money on costumes, a simple dress could pass for Matilda and an old jumper and trousers for Charlie Bucket)

English

During our Roald Dahl topic, we will be learning to retell the story of Mr and Mrs Twit in an abridged form. We will be working hard to develop our understanding of language used in the story and work on our punctuation and grammar which for Year 1 includes: capital letters, full stops, ensuring sentences have verbs, adjectives, contractions such as **it's**, **she's** and switching between plural and singular versions of nouns. (Quite the challenge when you are only 5 and 6!) We have a 5 week sequence of learning which takes the form of 1. Reading and Retelling, 2. Comprehension, 3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation and finally 4. Planning, writing, checking and editing our story.

During our Christmas topic we will be reading and writing letters and enjoying Christmas stories.

Phonics has changed in light of revised government guidance. We now follow Little Wandle Letters and Sounds and do not use any Jolly Phonics actions to support our teaching.

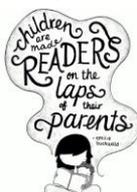
This half term, children will be taught alternative graphemes for known sounds e.g. **ay** in addition to **ai**, **oy** in addition to **oi**, **ie** in addition to **igh** etc. Children read to an adult 3 times a week to practise taught skills and these books are shared at home as an e book on the Collins website. Children will also have a physical book to have the experience of a real book and also a library book which can be changed on a regular basis which is a book to share for pleasure and is to be read by an adult.

At present, the government plans for Y1 children to take a national phonics check ('test') in June 2022. Please do chat to Mrs. Moss or myself if you have any queries. We really do value your support in your child's reading journey.



Homework

We have been amazed by the standard of homework children have been doing and really value your contribution at home. Homework sheets are **optional** and activities enable you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. One piece of learning can be submitted each week and please remind children to hand them in if they have completed any. Taking account of the children's age and stage of development, if homework is a challenge, the most significant way to impact on your child's progress is through regular reading and practising mental maths facts which are listed on the homework sheet.



Topic

During our Roald Dahl topic, our focus subjects are science and art. In science we will be learning about humans and animals. We will be categorising animals into carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores and look at and naming parts of animal and human bodies using the correct vocabulary. In art, we have an exciting textiles unit. We will be learning how to weave lots of different materials such as fabric and paper and embellish fabric with dye, pastels and glitter. (Every cleaner's favourite art tool!)

During our Christmas topic we will study the Christian story of the birth of Jesus Christ and learn about Christian beliefs and practices.



Maths

This half term we will focus on the children's understanding of addition and subtraction using numbers up to 20. We will learn different methods for subtraction including counting back and counting on when numbers are close together. We therefore do not use the term 'taking away'. We will also learn about shapes and their properties.

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.

Clothing- As the weather changes, please ensure children have a waterproof coat in school at all times and that additional items such as hats and gloves are named to ensure stray items can be quickly returned.

Forest School- Clubs remain unchanged so will continue to take place every week as follows:

Group 2-Monday, Group 3- Tuesday, Group 4- Thursday. Children may come to school in warm jogging bottoms, socks and trainers on these days.

Bookbags- Our storage crates are becoming full with bulky bookbags. YR phonics books can now be kept at home and also can keyrings be limited to one small one to aid identification. We are really happy to share medals, certificates, work children have done at home or special news but please leave other toys safe at home.

Thank you as ever for your ongoing support and please do contact the office by telephone or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk if you have any questions or would like an informal chat and I will always get back to you. Best Wishes, Mrs James and the Green Class Team