

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



**A happy return!** I hope that you all enjoyed the half term week and were able to have some exciting times. This half term, the children's learning will progress further and we will have lots of exciting events happening during this busy time of year. Mrs Marks, Mrs Moran and I will continue developing the children's confidence and independent learning skills across all subjects.

### TOPIC

We are going to start this half term with a topic called 'Roald Dahl'.

The focus in Purple Class Science will be animals, including humans, and what they need to survive. This includes the children developing their scientific skills to understand how animals survive, their life cycle (including offspring), and how we stay healthy by eating the correct foods.

Art is the other area of the curriculum taught during this topic. In Art, the focus is textiles and the children will be dip dyeing fabric, exploring relief printing blocks and investigating the skill of card wrapping.

On the first day, we used our literacy text to explore animals and captivity. The children were introduced to Jane Goodall and Diane Fossey, exploring their work and why this was important.

PSHE, Music, Computing, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

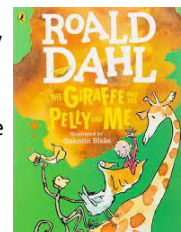


### LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me' by Roald Dahl which will help to develop our vocabulary and understand the structure of sentences. The children will have many writing opportunities throughout the topic to help build their writing stamina and practise basic skills such as sentence structure. The children will have regular handwriting sessions to help continually develop their cursive handwriting to assist them in becoming fluent writers. In phonics, the children will continue to revisit and review phase 5 from our phonics programme, specifically split digraphs and alternatives, e.g. wave (where the e changes the sound made by the a). Different learning strategies will also be introduced to give the children ideas of how to practise spellings in a variety of ways. We will also continue to practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:

**are, were, was, you, your, they, here, there, where, said, says, some, come, one, once, friend, school, house.**

The game 'Little Bird Spelling' on [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com) is very useful.



### BITS AND PIECES

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card and reading book
- water bottle and snack/tuck money
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, **trainers and pumps**, white t-shirt, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks

**Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.**

Forest School will be **Monday** for **group 2**, **Tuesday** for **group 3** and **Thursday** for **group 4**. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go. Please also make sure they have gloves, scarves and tights/trousers now that the weather is cooler.

Please read with your child daily to help build fluency and develop word meaning.

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will complete a range of activities to help develop their understanding of addition and subtraction of two 2-digit numbers by making numbers using different resources and using the written method of a number line. They will also be exploring commutativity – meaning addition of two numbers can be done in any order but subtraction cannot. Children will learn inverses and use this to answer missing number problems.

We will also learn specific problem solving skills to develop children's logical thinking.

Mental starters will focus on the two times tables, doubles and halves, and number bonds to 100.

**Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too! Start with the 2xs Table as this is the first one we introduce but also practise counting in 5s and 10s as we will learn those soon.**



I have really enjoyed teaching the children during the last half term and it is clear to see just how happy they are and how enthusiastic they are to learn.

Please email the office if you have any questions for me as I am always happy to help. Thank you.

*Miss Phipps, Mrs Moran, Mrs Marks and Miss Kuriger*