



NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Red Class

Roll up, roll up and enter the circus...



Happy New Year! Welcome to the spring term in Red Class. This term, we will be learning about the 'Circus' and taking part in a whole school writing competition. Categories include 'Best Write Dance Picture' and 'Best Circus Poem'. Winners will receive prizes! 'Land Far Away' will complete our half term as we find out about life in Ancient Egypt.

BITS AND PIECES

- ❖ PE takes place every Monday. Please tie up long hair for **gymnastics**.
- ❖ Forest School takes place every Friday.
- ❖ Real books are sent home on Mondays and eBooks every Friday.
- ❖ Water bottles are filled and emptied at school.
- ❖ Library books will be issued on the following days:
Monday: Lions **Tuesday:** Tigers
Wednesday: Parrots **Thursday:** Zebras
Friday: Giraffes

HANDWRITING

This term, we start our cursive handwriting adventure. We begin by learning the curly caterpillar letters (c, o, a, d, g, q) where we use a 'round and back' action. We will introduce one letter each day. When writing at home the following might help:

1. Write little and often (10 minutes each day).
2. Check your child's tripod grip and use chunky writing tools if needed.
3. Work 'big' on the floor, easel or at the table.
4. Use a range of sensory activities and media e.g. sand tray, shaving foam, felt tip pens.
5. Use this link to our You Tube channel to find letter formation videos:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_466TobEUoRugFnKKWbXSQ
6. Say the formation phrase together to support correct letter formation (see attached).
7. Follow handwriting with an activity of your child's choice e.g. "Handwriting now, outside play next."
8. Offer lots of positive praise. Together we will get there!

CIRCUS

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- *Begin to name and describe emotions.
- *Know ways to keep a healthy mind and body e.g. exercise.
- *Know who to talk to if we feel upset or worried.

Communication and Language/Literacy

- *Extend spoken sentences using conjunctions e.g. 'and', 'because', 'so'.
- *Identify vowel digraphs e.g. ai (rain) and ee (sheep) and begin to read and spell words using them.
- *Share 'Olivia Saves the Circus' and identify and understand vocabulary from the story.
- *Read and order word cards to create a poem.

Mathematics

- *Read, make and understand teen numbers.
- *Count in 2s.
- *Use the part-whole model for addition and subtraction.
- *Name and describe 3D shapes.

Physical Development

- *Travel, roll, jump and balance.
- *Create a simple sequence of movements.
- *Begin to form cursive letters.
- *Wake and Shake- 'Keep on Moving' by Five

Topic

Science

- *Name, describe and sort materials.
- *Find similarities and differences between materials and identify some changes.
- *Make simple predictions and test materials.

Art

- *Name and describe textiles.
- *Shape, join and dye textiles.
- *Create a wall hanging linked to our circus theme.

Music

- *Continue to develop use of Kodaly hand shapes to support pitch matching.
- *Use instruments to create sound effects for different circus acts.

Daily messages can be given to Mrs Moss in the morning or please email the office - office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk
Our Red Class blog can be accessed every Friday through ParentApp. We're always happy to help.

Best wishes, Mrs Webb, Mrs Reid, Mrs Edney and Mrs Hampton.