

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



A happy return! I hope that you all enjoyed the half term week and were able to enjoy some exciting activities. This half term, our learning opportunities will continue to develop and we will have lots of exciting things happening during this busy time of year. Mrs Morgan, Miss Bailey 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 Geography topic called 'Tell Me a Story'.

The focus in Yellow Class will be the beautiful (but cold) country of Austria.

We will be investigating the country of Austria in terms of continents, oceans, bordering countries and the hemisphere it is in. We will also develop our existing knowledge of physical and human features to make comparisons between Austria and the UK.

Art and Science are other areas of the curriculum taught during this topic. In Art, the focus is textiles where the children will be dying fabric and using different types of stamps to print on the fabric to create an art piece.

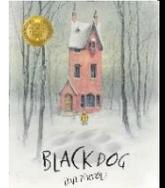
Science will focus on humans and animals. Specifically, the children will understand why animals and humans need food and they will also explore the skeletal system.

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.



LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'Black Dog' by Levi Pinfold which will help to develop vocabulary and understanding of 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 construction. The children will engage in regular handwriting sessions to help continually develop their cursive handwriting to assist them in becoming fluent writers.



In phonics the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding prefixes mis- and re- and the /i/ sound spelt y. 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 practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:

continue, decide describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, earth, eight, eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward, fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide.

The game 'Little Bird Spelling' on 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
- 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 for **all** children in Yellow Class will take place on Monday this term. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

If you would like your child to have afternoon fruit, ask the office for a letter.

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

NUMERACY

During Numeracy children will continue to take part in activities which will assist in developing their understanding of 2- and 3-digit numbers. They will also continue to improve their ability to add and subtract 2-digit numbers mentally and 3-digit numbers using a written method. Problem solving is part of this each day.

We will also carry out separate problem solving once a week to develop children's logical thinking.

Mental starters will focus on doubles up to 50+50, number bonds to 100 (multiples of 5) and counting in 3s, 4s and 11s.

Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too!



I am really enjoying teaching your children and it is clear to see just how happy your children are and how enthusiastic they are to learn.

Please email the office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Miss Phipps