

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



**A big warm welcome back to everyone!** We are delighted to welcome everyone back to the start of a new academic year where there will be many exciting learning opportunities for your child. Miss Townsend will be teaching your child every morning and Miss Kuriger every afternoon. Miss Burgess and Miss Bailey will also be working in Blue Class and, as a team, we will work to ensure that your child is happy, works hard and fulfils their academic potential in a classroom where learning behaviours and code of conduct are continually developed and supported too. Year 4 is often seen as a very exciting year group to be part of with special trips (Malvern) and roles in school (Year 4 job scheme). We look forward to a very happy and successful year ahead. Let's see how it will all begin...

### TOPIC

We kick start the year with a fascinating history topic, 'The Romans'. We will delve into the past and investigate significant events in Britain's history. The question of focus throughout the topic is: '*Was the Roman invasion good or bad for Britain?*'. Learning will culminate in the children generating their own answer at the end of topic, with justified reasons and historical evidence.



D.T. and Art are the other main subjects taught during this topic. The focus is on drawing skills during Art lessons this half term, where children will firstly explore patterns in natural objects and then focus on how linear patterns are used in the work of British artist, John Brunson. Children will use techniques learned in their own piece of artwork depicting Roman Britain. D.T. focuses on the use of pneumatic mechanisms to create a moving model or character. This will take skill and patience!

Throughout the topic, the children will be involved in deciding what learning they would like to share with you. This will be in the form of a photoboard and a short YouTube film which you will be able to enjoy on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October**.

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

The text 'The Journal of Iliona, A Young Slave' will be the focus during this topic. This Roman diary will be used to inspire and engage the children whilst developing their language, reading and writing skills. They will be given opportunities to ask questions about the text, make predictions and summarise what they read, key Year 4 reading skills. Focusing on the rich language and ideas used in the text will develop their use of vocabulary and creativity when writing their own diary extracts. The children will also be reading and writing non-fiction texts linked to the Romans. They will have the opportunity to use contents, indexes and glossaries efficiently and learn the importance of using technical language when writing similar texts.



The children will be introduced to their individual writing target and regular handwriting sessions will help them to develop their cursive handwriting so that they become fluent writers. In Spelling sessions, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding suffixes -ing, -er, -en, -ed, -ment, -less, -ful, -ness and ly and will practise reading and spelling the following tricky words: *accident, accidentally, actual, actually, address, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy, business, calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue*

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of 3- and 4-digit numbers, Roman Numerals and mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. Concrete apparatus will be used throughout to support their understanding of concepts before moving on to pictorial and abstract methods.

Mental starters will focus on number bonds to 20, 100 and beyond, doubles and halves to 100 and counting on and back in different steps. We will also



revisit the 2, 5 and 10 times table to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order.

### CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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

- school book bag
- home reading card/folder
- water bottle and healthy snack or 30p
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit: jogging bottoms - plain blue or black please, 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.

### BITS AND PIECES

\*Due to some disruption to learning over the last two years, continued learning at home will play a significant part in helping your child 'catch up' with missed learning and to help them make accelerated progress to be able to access the Year 4 curriculum. **Reading with your child each night, finding 5 minutes every day to practise their times table recall and any targets sent home will really support your child.**



\*Forest School for children in Blue Class will take place on Wednesday for Group 5 and Friday for Group 6. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

\*We have a rich and varied curriculum each day in school which often involves physical and messy activities. We often note that children with long hair, which is not tied up, can find it challenging to complete these activities and can get frustrated because it gets in their way. To avoid this (and painful tangles and unwanted visitors!), it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.

We are really looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best before they move on to middle school. If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). Many thanks.

Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger