

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 break 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. We have two exciting topics during this half term which are: Blackwell Bear travels and Christmas. Our chosen country for our first topic is India and we will be sharing our learning with other classes in an 'Our world' celebration day to develop our communication and group work skills and also to learn about different places around the world. The children represented themselves brilliantly at the Y1 multiskills festival at Bromsgrove School and took part in sporting activities with 400 other Y1 children from across Bromsgrove. Below are some photographs.



Victor sharing his WW2 evacuation story.

English

During our 'Blackwell Bear Travels' topic, we will be learning to retell the story of the Chapati man (an innovation on the Gingerbread man). 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 4 week sequence of learning which takes the form of 1. Retelling, 2. Comprehension, 3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation and finally 4. Planning, writing, checking and editing our story. Daily phonics will focus on known sounds being made by a different graphemes e.g. **or** can now also be **aw** and **ai** can be **ay** and **a-e**.



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

Topic

Geography



This half term we will be researching India and comparing key aspects of human and physical geography of India to England.

RE

We will be learning about the festival of Diwali which celebrates the story of Rama and Sita. We will learn about the beliefs and customs which take place during this time of year. This work will enable us to make comparisons between religions as we will be learning about the importance of Christmas to Christians later this half term.

DT

During our DT learning we will be designing and making some Indian snacks such as chapatis to share with the rest of the school on our celebration day. This will involve a wide range of skills such as tasting, combining, food technology skills and hand hygiene!

PE

PE will continue on Tuesdays and we will be working on our gymnastic and dance skills.

Maths

This half term we will focus the children's understanding of number in terms comparing them, reading and writing them and understanding their place/value. We will continue our work on addition and subtraction and also learn to tell the time to half past the hour. Problem solving will have a focus on logic problems.

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. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week from the relevant topic. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home. The reading books we now have are designed to help children notice all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know. Please remind your child to change their book themselves in a morning and check it is the right colour. They can always come back at the end of the day if you see they have not changed it. Fluency is a really important part of reading and it is our target that children increase their sight vocabulary to read 50 words per minute. To support this, please keep books for a couple of nights to re-read them.

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 coat in school at all times and that additional items such as hats and gloves are named to make stray items can be quickly returned.

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

Group 5- Monday, Group 3 and 4-Friday.

Miss Turner is planning a relocation later this year. She is going to be replaced by Mrs Dudek (Monday) and Mrs Hampton (Tuesday-Friday). We will be extremely sad to see Miss Turner go but we have some fabulous replacements. There will be an overlap of staff to ensure a smooth handover. We are also thrilled to be welcoming Mr Rivett as a student teacher. The children in Green Class will be very well supported! If you have any questions or queries, please speak to any member of the team.

Mrs James and Team Green